



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ADAMS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DENNIS

M.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Dennis M. Adams honorably served in the United States Army / Dennis Adams was deployed to Vietnam as an Intelligence Officer, specializing in sending and decoding encrypted messages

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

A native of South Buffalo, Dennis Adams graduated from South Park High School, enlisting shortly thereafter in the U.S. Army / After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Dennis Adams graduated from Buffalo State College and joined the Buffalo Police Department / Following a few years of patrol duty, Adams was promoted to Detective, initially for the Vice Squad and later with the Burglary Task Force / Adams also served as an editorial cartoonist for the "Blue Line", a newsletter published by the city police union / Dennis Adams retired from the Buffalo Police Department in 1999 / Adams started working as a private investigator, conducting surveillances, examining crime scenes and interviewing witnesses for local law firms, before finally retiring in 2022 / Adams published two crime novels ("Motive" and "City Hall Secrets"), based on incidents that happened during his years as a police detective / Adams was also a lifelong amateur magician / Dennis Adams passed away at the Rochester General Hospital following an illness on 9 February 2024 / Dennis M. Adams was 75 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BAJ**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ARTHUR

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Arthur J. Baj honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BIALKOWSKI**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

J.

Address: 46 EASTWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CN

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 11 (NMCB11)

3RD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION (NC) BRIGADE (BDE), UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM (USNAVFORV)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Constructionman John Joseph Bialkowski honorably served in the United States Navy / CN John Bialkowski served with the Seabees and was deployed to Vietnam in April 1967 as an Electrician / Seabee CN John L. Bialkowski was Killed in Action on 24 June 1967 from enemy fire, causing his truck to crash, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The battalion of CN John Bialkowski was based at Dong Ha which was about ten miles from the DMZ and North Vietnam where his battalion was shelled many times with artillery and rockets / On 24 June 1967, CN John Bialkowski was part of a four-man trash truck detail dumping trash at Don Ha Combat Base dump when he was run over by a dump truck, reportedly during enemy shelling of the base / He was fatally injured in the incident

Bialkowski trained as a Construction Electrician (Power Lineman).

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



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Davisville, Rhode Island - was formerly the home of the Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center, which housed the United States Navy's SeaBees / The Navy acquired the property in 1939 and built Naval Air Station Quonset Point / In 1942, adjoining properties were developed for training Seabees, including the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Davisville / After World War II, the Naval Air Station remained in operation, but the NCBC was inactive until 1951, when the site was designated Headquarters, NCBC / The Naval Air Station was decommissioned in 1974.

Miscellaneous:

John Bialkowski was a graduate of West Seneca Senior High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute before joining the Navy in December 1965 / John Joseph Bialkowski was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

John Joseph Bialkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 56

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

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement



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The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936 / The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" / The Navy Expeditionary Medal was retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **BOMMER**

GERALD

L.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Gerald L. Bommer honorably served in the United States Air Force / MSGT Gerald Bommer was assigned as a Flight Engineer for 32 years with multiple deployments beginning in Vietnam through the Gulf Wars and Operation Desert Shield/Storm

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald L Bommer passed away on 26 February 2017 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Saint Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Lancaster, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BORYSZEWSKI**
STEPHEN J.

Killed in Vietnam

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

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Stephen J. Boryszewski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Stephen Boryszewski was deployed to Vietnam on 10 November 1968 as a Rifleman / LCpl Boryszewski was Killed in Action on 10 April 1969 from fragmentation wounds suffered when an enemy land mine exploded in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

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 worked for the National Aniline Division of Allied Chemical Corporation / Boryszewski enlisted into the Marine Corps in May 1968 / Stephen J. Boryszewski was 19 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Stephen J. Boryszewski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27w, Line 47

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operational requirements

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The



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medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOSSMAN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PETER

R.

Address: 84 BRIANWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HM3

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

USNAVFORV, HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON 363, MARINE AIR GROUP 16

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

AVIATOR BADGE NAVY

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Hospitalman Third-Class Peter Robert Bossman honorably served in the United States Navy / HM Peter Bossman was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman / HM3 Peter Bossman was declared Missing in Action on 25 September 1966 when the helicopter he was onboard was hit by enemy groundfire and crashed in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

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 / The crew of the UH34 was listed as killed, body not recovered including HM3 Peter Bossman who is listed as Missing In Action

Highway 9 was a primary east-west road that ran from the South Vietnamese-Laos border nearly to the



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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

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 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 / Peter Robert Bossman was 21 years of age at the time of his passing

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Bossman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Peter Robert Bossman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 12

Hospitalmen (HM) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

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

SNAVFORV (United States Naval Forces Vietnam) / During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Navy deployed various units to support operations in the region / One such unit was Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 363 (HM-363), which was part of Marine Air Group 16 / Their mission was to conduct mine countermeasures using helicopters, specifically the MH-53E Sea Dragon / These helicopters were designed to detect and neutralize naval mines, ensuring safe passage for ships and other naval vessels

Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-16 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force



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commanders / Marine Helicopter Transport Group 16 (MAG(HR)-16) was commissioned on 1 March 1952 at Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California / MAG-16 was the first helicopter group established in the Marine Corps

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A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BREIDENSTEIN

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

John A. Breidenstein honorably served in the United States Army / John Breidenstein was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John A. Breidenstein passed away on 12 January 2004 at the age of 56 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRODNICKI**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DAVID

R.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal David R. Brodnicki honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David R. Brodnicki was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers, Local 71, for more than 50 years / Brodnicki was an avid hunter and served as a youth soccer coach / David R. Brodnicki passed away at the age of 77 on December 19, 2020



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Name: **BROWN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

RONALD

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Ronald F. Brown honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald F. Brown passed away on 29 April 2021 at the age of 75 years old

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has



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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

Name: **BROWN**
RONALD

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ronald F. Brown honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald F. Brown passed away at the age of 75 on 29 April 2021



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Name: **BUCOLO**

MICHAEL

M.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John Michael Bucolo honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Bucolo retired from the United States Postal Service / John Michael Bucolo passed away on 15 December 2025 at the age of 84 years old



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Name: **BUDNEY**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

RONALD

T.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Ronald T. Budney honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Name: **CAIN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GREGORY J.

Address: WOODWARD COURT

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Gregory Jack Cain honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C Gregory Cain was deployed to Vietnam from 1967 through 1968 and was assigned to the Combat Security Police

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Combat Security Police (CSP) was a first of its kind Air Force light infantry unit with specialized training in both air base defense and offensive operations / It was created in 1967 as part of "Operation Safeside" to better protect US air bases in Vietnam / CSP were trained as Air Force "Rangers" and were equipped to function as a quick reaction force should an air base come under attack, or as a seek and destroy unit which could set ambushes to destroy enemy infiltrators outside or on the perimeter of a base / The creation of CSP was a response to well-planned attacks by organized guerilla raiding parties on three of the major air bases in Vietnam



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Name: **CARL**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

WILLIAM

E.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: COL

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1988

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/ OAK LEAF

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Colonel William Ernest Carl honorably served in the United States Army / Colonel Carl entered the New York National Guard on 1 April 1967 and was called up for 24 months of active duty, which included 18 months in Vietnam as a Unit Tank Commander / Carl was honorably discharged from active duty in April of 1969, and continued in the Army National Guard for 19 years, totaling 21 years of service to our country / Colonel William Carl was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from active duty, William Carl entered the workforce as a manager for Firestone and, after retiring from there, found a new role as a school bus driver in Buffalo / William Ernest Carl passed away on 12 November 2024 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order



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of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

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The Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces that has existed since 1950 / The medal recognizes service performed by members of the reserve components and is awarded to both officers and enlisted personnel

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Name: **CASTANZA**
RALPH

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ralph Castanza honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Castanza Started working as a Mechanic at Penny's Auto Center and moved into Management at Advance Auto Parts / Castanza moved to Clayton, North Carolina after his retirement / Ralph Castanza passed away on 20 May 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Name: CIESLIK

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL

C.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Michael C. Cieslik honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael C. Cieslik passed away on 23 August 2025 at the age of 79 years old



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Name: **CLAY**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JON

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Jon A. Clay honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Name: **COLLINGRIDGE**
WAYNE **M.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A2C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman Second Class Wayne M. Collingridge honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne M. Collingridge passed away at the age of 79 years old on 9 May 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONDIDA**
JOSEPH

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM

3 OVERSEAS BARS

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph A. Condidia honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Joseph Condidia was deployed to Vietnam as a Power Plant Operator/Mechanic during his three tours of Vietnam (19 1/2 months) with the 1st Air Cavalry

PFC Joseph Condidia was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 13 September 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Condidia was 100% disabled from exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam / Joseph A. Condidia passed away on 7 March 2017

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Hood, Texas and was formed in 1921, serving during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Air Cavalry was sent to Vietnam in 1965 and their first major operation in Vietnam was to help relieve the Siege of Plei Me near Pleiku and the pursuit of the withdrawing



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People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) which culminated in the Battle of Ia Drang / Because of that battle the division earned the Presidential Unit Citation (US), the first unit to receive such in the war / In 1966, the division attempted to root the communist Viet Cong (VC) and PAVN out of Binh Định Province with Operation Masher, Operation Crazy Horse and Operation Thayer / 1967 was then spent conducting Operation Pershing, a large scale search and destroy operation of PAVN/VC base areas in II Corps in which 5,400 PAVN/VC soldiers were killed and 2,000 captured / In 1970 the division took a defensive posture while US troops withdrawals continued from Vietnam / On 29 April 1971 the bulk of the division was withdrawn to Fort Hood, Texas, but its 3rd Brigade remained as one of the final two major US ground combat units in Vietnam, departing 29 June 1972 / In the Vietnam War, the 1st Air Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961 / Gallantry Cross with Palm: cited at the Armed Forces level

An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months

The Army Service Ribbon (ASR) is a military award of the United States Army and is awarded to all members of the Regular (Active) Army, and Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve in an active reserve status, for successful completion of initial-entry training, which for officers is considered to be successful completion of their basic/orientation or higher-level course / Enlisted soldiers will be awarded the ribbon upon successful completion of their initial military occupational specialty (MOS)-producing course

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high



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achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONNORS**
MICHAEL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael Connors honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Connors retired from the Veterans Administration



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONWALL**
JAMES

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James Conwell honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, James Conwall was employed by the United States Post Office for over 40 years / James "Jim" Conwall passed away on 18 April 2024 at the age of 79 years old



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Name: CURTISS

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: UTA3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (MCB) FIVE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT OPERATIONS INSIGNIA

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

Service Notes:

Utilitiesman (Air Conditioning) Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert John Curtiss honorably served in the United States Navy with the Seabees as a Refrigeration Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam - Naval Support Activity Danang or NSA Danang was a United States Navy logistics support organization located in Danang, South Vietnam active from October 1965 to April 1972 / The logistic establishment at Danang functioned with growing efficiency by mid-1968 as it built new port and shore facilities / Seabees, initially using materials pre-stocked before the war in Advanced Base Functional Component packages, constructed three deep-draft piers for oceangoing ships, two 300 feet wooden piers an Landing Ship, Tank (LST) causeway and the Bridge Cargo Complex that consisted of a 1,600 feet long wharf, 300,000 cubic feet of refrigerated storage space and 500,000 square feet of covered storage space / Amphibious fuel lines were laid along the sea floor to storage tanks ashore at Red Beach Base Area, north of the city and the Marines' Marble Mountain Air Facility to the south / In April 1972 all US Navy facilities in Danang were transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Navy

Miscellaneous:

Robert J. Curtiss was a member and past Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Naval Construction Battalion 5 was commissioned on 25 May 1942 at Camp Allen Virginia / The battalion went to Port Hueneme and shipped out for the first of two deployments in the Pacific during World War II / When the war ended CB 5 was decommissioned in the Philippines / On 10 July 1951 the Battalion was re-commissioned as



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a Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) / From 1965 to 1972, NMCB FIVE made six consecutive deployments to Vietnam / NMCB 5 was the last battalion to deploy to Vietnam March to November 1971 / The battalion had numerous incidents with mines on that deployment / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand and aided in the construction of Nam Phong Air Base / While in Vietnam, NMCB Five was awarded 3 Navy Unit Commendations and 3 Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations

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The Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation Insignia (also known as a globe device) is a bronze award device that signifies participation in specific campaigns as designated by the Secretary of the Navy / They are commonly awarded to hospital corpsmen, chaplains, and other non-combat roles who have done their duty in a combat zone



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Name: **DAIL**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

RAYMOND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private Raymond Dail honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam . PVT Dail served for four years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DAY

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ISAAC

L.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant Isaac L. Day honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Isaac Day was deployed to Vietnam for two tours and retired from the United States Army after 24 years of service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Isaac L. Day passed away on 15 February 2023 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Name: **DEJOY**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

V.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

84TH ENGINEERS BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

OVERSEAS BAR

MARKSMAN BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant John Vincent DeJoy honorably served in the United States Army / SGT John DeJoy was deployed to Vietnam as a Track Vehicle Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John V. DeJoy was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

The 84th Engineers Battalion saw combat in Vietnam, where it arrived on 9 June 1965 at Cam Ranh Bay / This was the first major contingent of US Army Engineers to land in Vietnam / Stationed at Qui Nhon and later Da Nang, the 84th Engineer Battalion was committed to the construction of major bases, depot facilities, warehouses, roads, bridges, and airfields / The Battalion's authorized strength at this time was 899 soldiers, but with the attachment of 2 companies of Vietnamese laborers, the Battalion strength approached 1700 personnel / The Battalion served in Vietnam until it received orders to deploy from Vietnam in July 1972

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Name: **DEL PRINCIPE**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DALE

F.

Address: 24 KATHY LANE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class (Technical Corporal) Dale Francis Del Principe honorably served in the United States Army / SP-5 Dale Del Principe was deployed to Vietnam as a Cook

SP5 Dale Del Principe was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 27 September 1968 with reserve obligations ending 13 December 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dale Del Principe attended Cheektowaga Central High School / Dale Del Principe was a missionary for 20 plus years, serving in Africa, India, and Nepal through the International Mission Board headquartered in Richmond Virginia / Dale Francis Del Principe passed away in Delhi, India on 5 January 2025 at the age of 77 years old

Food Service Specialists function in every aspect of food preparation, including administration, procurement, storage, and distribution / They plan menus, purchase supplies, cook food, operate food service equipment, and provide customer service / Food Service Specialist training includes: standard and dietetic menu planning; food preparation and cooking; basic nutrition; storage of meats, poultry, and other perishable items; dining service operations; and food and supply ordering

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Name: **DONAHUE**
JAMES

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

W.

Address: ROSEWOOD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James W. Donahue honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donahue was deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division

Base Assignments:

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, 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 divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:

James Donahue graduated from West Seneca High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, James Donahue spent 37 years working for the Railroad

The 1st Air Cavalry refers to the 1st Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army, which was the first Airmobile Division / This division is known for its air assault infantry capabilities and has a rich history, including significant



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operations during the Iraq War, where Apache Longbows from the division engaged in battles against Iraq's Republican Guard / The division continues to provide scalable combat-ready forces and is capable of conducting operations globally / Recently, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade conducted a change of command ceremony, highlighting its ongoing operational relevance

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a mid-level award given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by acts of heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service / It was established in 1945 and is awarded retroactively to those who served after December 6, 1941



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Name: **DUSCH**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael F. Dusch honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Michael Dusch was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Dusch graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School / Michael Dusch was a salesman for Auto-trol Technology



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ELLIS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DAVID

W.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

623RD QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David W. Ellis honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Ellis was deployed to Vietnam with the 623rd Quartermaster Company

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps was responsible for procuring and delivering various supplies to units in all theaters of war during World War II / Quartermaster units were charged with providing food (steady supply of food and rations), clothing, petroleum products (gasoline, kerosene, aviation fuel, diesel oil, fuel oil and petroleum-based lubricants) and general supplies (diverse items as rope, soap, candles, knives, forks and spoons , etc.) to troops stationed in the United States and to the far-flung armed forces around the world / More than 32,000 officers, officer cadets and key enlisted personnel received their training at the Quartermaster School between 1 July 1940 and 3 December 1945 / The physical conditioning of entrants was emphasized from the beginning of the training program / In addition, the rigorous military training entailed learning to use all armed methods of protection, crawling through simulated battlefields, taking refuge in foxholes (of their own digging), making technical decisions regarding rations, and learning every aspect of ammunition supply points (ASPs)

Constituted 3 February 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 623d Quartermaster Railhead Company / Activated 20 April 1944 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana / Inactivated 20 April 1946 in Japan / Redesignated 20 November 1948 as the 623d Quartermaster Base Depot Company and allotted to the Organized Reserve Corps / Withdrawn 16 November 1951 from the Organized Reserve Corps and allotted to the Regular Army; concurrently redesignated as the 623d Quartermaster Company / Activated 12 December 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia / Inactivated 20 December 1968 in Vietnam / The 623d Quartermaster Company participated in several



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counteroffenses including the Tet Counteroffensive / The 623rd received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for their service in Vietnam 1967-1968



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Name: ERNST, JR.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

CHESTER

R.

Address: 132 BRIERWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

MEDICAL COMPANY (WOQ5MD), VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL, PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

3 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Chester Raymond Ernst, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army as a Payroll Disbursement Specialist

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Chester R. Ernst, Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

Valley Forge General Hospital is a former military hospital in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania / The hospital was near both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Valley Forge. It was the only United States Army General Hospital named for a place / The hospital was built in 1942, and opened on Washington's Birthday in 1943 to care for the wounded of World War II / It became the largest military hospital in the United States. Eventually, the hospital had well over 3,000 patients and over 100 separate buildings / During the Vietnam War, patients were flown into McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey / Army patients would then be moved by Air Force ambulance bus to Walson Army Hospital at the adjacent Fort Dix, where they would be further prepared for movement, typically by Army ambulance buses if they were moving to Valley Forge / In 1969, the 212th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) was activated at Fort Meade, Maryland / One of its primary missions was to transport patients from Fort Dix, New Jersey to Valley Forge / The need was clearly there; between January 1, 1968 and September 30, 1970, 7,033 patients were moved from Dix to the Valley Forge General Hospital / On April 17,



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1973, it was announced that the hospital would be closing / The Valley Forge General Hospital was placed in an inactive status effective 31 March 1974, by Department of the Army

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An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Name: **ESCOTT**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

H.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: ABE3

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Third-Class (Launching and Recovery) Robert H. Escott honorably served in the United States Navy / ABE3 Robert Escott was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Aviation Boatswain's Mate's (ABE) operate and maintain catapults, arresting gear, barricades, and water brakes / Run and repair hydraulic and steam catapult systems / Control and monitor deck-edge control stations, jet blast deflectors, ICCS (Integrated Catapult Control System), and jet blast deflector control panels / Oversee and maintain arresting gear engines, sheave dampers, and retraction engines / Work directly with pilots and deck crews to ensure safe launches and landings



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Name: **FARRELL**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DAVID

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: GMT2

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gunners Mate Second-Class David J. Farrell honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Farrell worked most of his life as an Industrial Electrician / David F. Farrell passed away on 16 August 2022 at the age of 73 years old



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Name: **FEIDER SR**
RICHARD

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Richard Paul Feider, Sr. honorably served in in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Paul Feider, Sr. passed away on 9 October 2016



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GALBRAITH**
RODNEY

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Q.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY HEADQUARTERS (HQ) BATTALION, 2ND MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVISE

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL W/"V"

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Rodney Quay Galbraith honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Rodney Galbraith was deployed to Vietnam for 2 years, 5 months and 20 days as a Legal Clerk / Sergeant Galbraith attended the Naval Justice School and served as a Legal Clerk

Base Assignments:

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Naval Justice School - Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Justice School (NJS) is an educational institution of the United States Navy whose mission is to instruct Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel in the fundamental principles of military justice, civil and administrative law, and procedure / The Naval Justice School was founded in 1946 and moved to Newport, Rhode Island in 1950 from Port Hueneme, California

Miscellaneous:



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Rodney Q. Galbraith was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940, American Legion Post #735 and the Marine Corps League, Detachment #239 / Rodney Quay "Skeet" Galbraith passed away on 9 June 2024 at the age of 76 years old

The mission of the Headquarters Company, HQ Ballion, 2nd Marine Division is to train, administer, and sustain Marines in order to ensure their individual readiness and enable Marine supported organizations to concentrate on their respective missions

The 2nd Marine Division (2nd MARDIV) is a division of the United States Marine Corps, which forms the ground combat element of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) / The division is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina / During World War II, the 2nd Marine Division (Headquarters) participated in operations in the Pacific Theater of Operations: the Guadalcanal Campaign, in the Solomon Islands campaign, the Battle of Tarawa, the Gilbert Islands campaign, the Battle of Saipan, the Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / The Division didn't take part in a major action again until 1958 when elements participated in the U.S. intervention into the Lebanon crisis of 1958 / 2nd Marine Division units helped to reinforce Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and landed in the Dominican Republic in 1965 as part of Operation Power Pack / Other peacekeeping operations carried on by the Division include being part of the Multi National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon from August 1982 until February 1984 / The Division suffered the loss of 238 Marines and Sailors during the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, plus 3 U.S. Army personnel attached to the unit

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level

The Navy Achievement Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement or meritorious service of military personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal /The Navy Achievement Medal (NAM), is the United States Navy version of the Achievement Medal / The U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal" / The "V" device is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful



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completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **GANG**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ALLEN

R.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

17TH CAVALRY REGIMENT, 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (MACHINE GUN)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Allen R. Gang honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Allen Gang was initially stationed at the United States Army Overseas Replacement Station in Oakland, California before being deployed to Vietnam for 12 months, assigned to a Transportation Detachment / PFC Allen Gang was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat action on 2 February 1968

PFC Gang was stationed at the United States Overseas Replacement Station in Oakland, California prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky–Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger,



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Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Miscellaneous:

Allen Gang attended South Park High School before entering the U.S. Army at the age of 19 years old / Allen was a life member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and American Legion Post #721 Buffalo, New York / Allen R. Gang passed away on 10 November 2024 at the age of 77 years old

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

The 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1940, in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in the Vietnam War), briefly in 1991–1992 at Fort Lewis, and from 2007 as an active army training formation at Fort Moore / The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War / Nicknamed "the Redcatchers", the unit was hastily moved to Song Be, Vietnam on 10 December 1966 to provide an increased U.S. presence in the III Corps Tactical Zone and remained there until its return to Fort Benning on 11 October 1970 / The brigade was conducting Operation Uniontown in Dong Nai Province when the 1968 Tet Offensive began / It immediately began a defense of U.S. II Field Force headquarters at Long Binh Post against attacks by the VC 275th Regiment / One battalion was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong command post at the Phu Tho racetrack inside Saigon, then engaged in house-to-house fighting in Cholon / During 1969, the 199th was responsible for the security of the region north and east of the capital, and in 1970 moved into the "Iron Triangle" when other units participated in the Cambodian Incursion / The brigade was deactivated in 1970 until it was reactivated in 1991 and 2006

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter



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case posthumously

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GANGLOFF**
DANIEL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Daniel Gangloff honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GARCIA**
JOSEPH

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: ROSE AVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

241ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

110TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, USARPAC (U.S. ARMY PACIFIC)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Joseph Garcia honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Joseph Garcia was stationed in Hawaii and volunteered for duty in Vietnam / While stationed in Vietnam, SP5 Garcia provided perimeter and checkpoint security for his compound while stationed in Long Mai, Vietnam

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 Lee - Opened in 1918, Fort Lee in Prince George County, Virginia was named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee / Fort Lee was the headquarters for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM)/ Sustainment Center of Excellence (SCoE), the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, the U.S. Army Ordnance School, The U.S. Army Transportation School, the Army Logistics University (ALU), Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), and the U.S. Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA)

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii - Located in the County of Honolulu and named after Lieutenant General John McAllister Schofield, Commanding General United States Army August 1888 to September 1895 / Schofield had



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been sent to Hawaii in 1872 and had recommended the establishment of a naval base at Pearl Harbor / The post was established in 1908 to provide mobile defense of Pearl Harbor and the entire island

Wheeler Air Force Base, Hawaii - Named Wheeler Field on 11 November 1922 in honor of Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, former commander of Luke Field on Ford Island, killed in the crash of DH-4B, on 13 July 1921 / Wheeler Army Airfield was a primary target and site of the first attack on 7 December 1941, leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor / The Japanese attacked the airfield to prevent the numerous planes there from getting airborne and engaging them / Most of the planes were destroyed, but 12 pilots assigned to the 15th Pursuit Group at Wheeler succeeded in getting their P-36 Hawk and P-40 Warhawk aircraft off the ground, engaged the Japanese in furious dogfights, and scored some of the first American victories of World War II With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service in 1947, Wheeler Army Air Base was re-designated Wheeler Air Force Base / In August 1987, the Secretary of the Interior designated Wheeler AFB as a National Historic Landmark, recognizing it as a site of national significance in the history of the United States and, in particular, World War II in the Pacific

Long Mai, Vietnam - U.S. Army base was located in Minh Long District, Quang Ngai

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Garcia attended West Seneca Senior High School and worked as a Bell Hop at the Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo / Upon graduation from high school in 1968, Garcia enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Fort Dix for basic training / After his honorable discharge, Joseph Garcia became a Special Investigator for Erie County under President Richard Nixon's American Presidency Project / Later Garcia worked for the Ford Motor Company, Hanna Furnace Corporation for eight years, Lasalle Ambulance and Rural Metro / Joseph Garcia is retired and still resides in West Seneca

The 241st Transportation Company was constituted 26 December 1942 as Company D, 494th Port Battalion, Transportation Corps, later reorganized and redesignated 30 June 1943 as the 241st Port Company / On 15 November 1954 the company was again reorganized and redesignated as the 241st Transportation Company / The 241st received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for Vietnam 1966-1967, 1968, 1968-1970 and 1970-1971

The 110th Transportation Company was constituted 10 November 1942 as Company L, 3d Battalion, 466th Quartermaster Truck Regiment / Reorganized and redesignated 23 March 1955 as the 110th Transportation Company and allotted to the Regular Army / the company received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation , Streamer embroidered Vietnam 1965, 1966-1967, 1968, 1968-1970, 1970-1971, 1971-1972 and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered Vietnam, 1971 / The 110th was Inactivated 15 September 1999 in Panama but reactivated 16 October 2008 at Fort Drum, New York

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military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Army Meritorious Unit Award (MUA) is awarded to units of the United States Army who show exceptional meritorious conduct in their performance of duties for a period of at least 6 months during conflict with an armed enemy / While service in a combat zone is not necessary, their service must be directly related to the combat effort / Subsequent awards of the citation are displayed by wearing an Oak Leaf Cluster on the service ribbon

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GARRETT**
LAWRENCE **E.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

MARINE AIR GROUP-39, 1ST MARINE AIR WING

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Lawrence E. Garrett honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Lawrence Garrett was assigned as an Aviation Radio Repairman and was deployed to Vietnam for 13 months with the Marine Air Traffic Control-62, Marine Air Group-39, 1st Marine Air Wing

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence E. Garrett passed away on 18 November 2016 and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Aviation Radio Repairman install and repair radio equipment, including multichannel radio equipment, used by ground and aviation forces / Their duties include troubleshooting and repairing ground common radio systems / Aviation Radio Repairman are trained in RF radiation hazard identification, Corrosion Control Management, CPR, First aid and Fire extinguisher usage

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is an aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps that serves as the Aviation Combat Element of the III Marine Expeditionary Force / The wing is headquartered at Camp Foster on the island of Okinawa, Japan / Activated in 1940, the wing has seen heavy combat operations during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War / The mission of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is to conduct air operations in support of the Fleet Marine Forces to include offensive air support, anti-air warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance including active and passive electronic countermeasures (ECM), and control of aircraft and



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missiles

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A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition / The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. The medal was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict. It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GEARY, SR.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

WILLIAM

E.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 4 BRONZE STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (M-14)

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal William E. Geary, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Cpl. William Geary was deployed to Vietnam for 16 months as a Radio Relay Operator

Corporal William E. Geary, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 2 February 1970, with reserve obligations ending 17 February 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William E. Geary, Sr. passed away on 6 January 2025 at the age of 79 years old

The Marine Corps Radio Operator is a versatile specialty that allows Marines to be assigned to a variety of units / These Marines are responsible for setting up radio communication equipment so that units can maintain contact with others / Duties include: Setting up and tuning radio equipment, including antennas and power sources / Establishing contact with distant stations / Processing and logging of messages / Marine Radio Operators can be assigned to any unit in the Marine Corps, including: Engineering, Artillery, Infantry, Tanks, Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV), Headquarters, Communications, RECON/MarSOC / The most experienced radiomen are usually assigned to battalion command and communication

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by



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order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GENNOCRO**
DONALD

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Donald Gennocro honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam / Corporal Gennocro served six years in the U.S. Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Gennocro is a member of the East Seneca Fire Company / Donald Gennocro served as a part-time Crossing Guard



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GIGANTE**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DARYL

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

1ST BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Daryl A. Gigante honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Daryl Gigante was assigned as a Field Radio Mechanic and served a 12-month deployment in South Vietnam from July 1970-July 1971, where he was assigned to 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

SGT Daryl Gigante received his Honorable Discharge from active duty on 28 July 1971

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daryl Gigante was employed by Dunlap Tire until his retirement / Daryl AS. Gigante was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / Daryl A. Gigante passed away on 5 March 2022

The 506th Infantry Regiment, formed at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, in 1942, was originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, as an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / The regiment served with the 101st Airborne Division in World War II / Regimental elements have served with the 101st in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan / Regimental



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elements have also served in peacetime with the 2nd Infantry Division, and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom / The World War II actions of the regiment's Company E ("Easy Company") were portrayed in the 2001 HBO miniseries Band of Brothers

The 101st Airborne Division is a light infantry division of the United States Army specializing in air assault operations / The Screaming Eagles were referred to as "the tip of the spear" and the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize key terrain and can work in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances and engaging enemy forces behind enemy lines / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept it in the vanguard of U.S. land combat forces in many conflicts; World War II, Korea, Vietnam and counterterrorism operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GRAVES**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GERALD

R.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Gerald R. George honorably served in the United States Army / SSG Gerald Graves was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GRUDZIEN**
HENRY

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CMC

Year Entered: 1958

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

LCU THIRTEEN (LANDING CRAFT UTILITY)

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE (SEABEES)

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (VIETNAM)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Command Master Chief Henry Adam Grudzien honorably served in the United States Navy / CMC Henry Grudzien was assigned as a Construction Mechanic (Heavy Constructions) / Grudzien spent five years and nine months of foreign/sea duty including three tours of Vietnam / Command Master Chief Grudzien served a total of twelve years in US Naval Service

Henry Grudzien joined the National Guard at 15 years old and enlisted into the United States Navy at 17 years old

Henry A. Grudzien received his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy on 30 October 1967 and joined the Navy Reserve

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Henry Grudzien became a Corrections Officer for the NYS Dept of Corrections and started his career at Attica Correctional Facility / Henry Adam Grudzien passed away on 4 October 2021

The Landing Craft Utility (LCU) is a type of boat used by amphibious forces to transport equipment and troops to the shore / They are capable of transporting tracked or wheeled vehicles and troops from amphibious assault



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ships to beachheads or piers

Naval Construction Battalion 5 (Seabees) was commissioned on May 25, 1942 at Camp Allen Virginia / The battalion went to Port Hueneme and shipped out for the first of two deployments in the Pacific / In 1944, the Construction Battalion was deployed to the Philippines to build roads and provide water supply / In On July 1951, CB 5 was sent to Korea to construct an airfield, leveling a mountain to make way for a nearly 2-mile long runway / From 1965 to 1972, NMCB FIVE made six consecutive deployments to Vietnam / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand to construct Nam Phong Air Base

The Navy Reserve is a branch of the United States Navy made up of qualified sailors who serve part-time while working in civilian jobs or attending school / Members of the Navy Reserve are categorized as being in either the Selected Reserve (SELRES), the Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR), the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), or the Retired Reserve / They provide invaluable expertise, experience, and leadership while delivering critical support to global operations and planning / The Navy Reserve provides strategic depth and delivers operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team in a range of military operations from peace to war

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces, which was first created in 1961 by Executive Order of President John Kennedy / The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after July 1, 1958, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HACKFORD
ALLEN L.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Allen L. Hackford honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HAGGERTY**
THOMAS F.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Thomas F. Haggerty honorably served in the United States Army / Thomas Haggerty was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas F. Haggerty passed away on 20 October 2016 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has



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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

Name: **HANSON**
WILLIAM

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant William "Bill" Hanson honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Hanson was a volunteer with the West Seneca Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



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Name: **HART**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Hart honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Hart was assigned to the 25th Infantry and deployed to Vietnam / SP4 Michael Hart was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Hart is a member of the Lions Club and the Military Order of the Purple Heart / Michael Hart is a member of American Legion Post #735

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducts military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / The division was originally activated from Hawaii garrison units during World War II, slightly more than a month before the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor began the Pacific War / After spending almost a year training, it fought in the Allied counteroffensive during the Guadalcanal Campaign from December 1942, helping to end organized Japanese resistance on that island by early February 1943 / The 25th also fought in the New Georgia Campaign in July 1943 and saw combat in the January 1945 invasion of Luzon / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / It participated in a series of United Nations counteroffensives in early 1951, then fought in a stalemate close to the 38th parallel from the middle of the year / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / The



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division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously



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Name: HENSON

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

THOMAS

G.

Address: 145 WARREN AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Thomas George Henson honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Thomas Henson was deployed to Vietnam on 16 October 1965 as an Armor Crewman / SP4 Thomas Henson was Killed In Action on 12 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in combat action in Ap Bau Bang 4 km North of Lai Khe, Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

The Battle of Ap Bau Bang took place on the morning of 12 November 1965, when two regiments from the Viet Cong 9th Division attacked a night defensive position of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment at a small village by the name of Ap Bau Bang, 15 miles north of Thu Dau Mot in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Early in November, the commander of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 5th Division requested the U.S. 1st Infantry Division to secure Highway 13 north of Lai Khe to cover the movement of the ARVN 7th Regiment, 5th Division for an operation in the Michelin Rubber Plantation / The mission was given to LTC George Shuffer and his 2/2nd Infantry / LTC Shuffer divided Highway 13 into three sectors, each secured by a company, and with the command group, Cavalry, and artillery in the middle sector / Everyday patrols would be sent out to sweep the Highway and its surroundings and then withdraw into night defensive positions / On the night of 11 November 1965, several mortar rounds hit Shuffer's central position, and a night ambush killed two Viet Cong / At 6:05 AM on the morning of November 12th, as Shuffer's forces prepared to start patrolling Highway 13, the Viet Cong launched their attack / Starting with a barrage of 50 mortar rounds, a battalion of Viet Cong attacked from the southwest / The attack was quickly met by return fire from Troop A's M113 armored personnel carriers which



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broke up the attack / A second attack from the south and a third attack from the southeast were similarly beaten back by the waiting American force / At 7:00 AM, the main attack was launched from the village of Bau Bang to the north and initially succeeded in penetrating the American position before this attack was also repulsed / Battery C used its guns in anti-personnel mode, firing 50 rounds at ground level with two-second fuses / Air strikes by U.S. Air Force A-1H Skyraiders and U.S. Navy A-4 Skyhawks were directed against the Viet Cong mortars and recoilless rifles positioned in and around Bau Bang / At 9:00 AM, the Viet Cong launched a final assault from the north, but were met with concentrated artillery fire and air strikes and by 1:30 PM the Viet Cong had abandoned their attacks and withdrew / Total U.S. casualties were 20 killed and 103 wounded, while Viet Cong losses were 146 killed (body count) and a further 50 were believed to have been killed, but the bodies were removed / The lost Americans included PFC Harold J. Battle, SP4 Allie W. Campbell, PFC Rafael C. Carmona-Medina, PFC Benjamin Castillo-Lima, SSG Joseph R. Dupere, SGT William H. Eaden, SGT Edward P. Ference, PFC Roger L. Floyd, PFC Thomas J. Fox, SP4 Joseph C. Giordano, SP4 Thomas G. Henson, SP4 Charles J. Janke, SP4 Jackie McMillon, PFC Mariner Patrick, PFC Wayne D. Proberts, PFC Rafael Santiago-Cruz, SP4 Raymo Santilli, SP4 Earnest G. Sears, SP5 Eugene Turner, and PFC James B. Washington

SP4 Thomas Henson re-enlisted in the U.S. Army during the summer of 1964 and was stationed in Germany prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Henson attended West Seneca Junior High School and enlisted in the Army in 1962 / Thomas George Henson was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Hope Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Thomas George Henson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03e, Line 44

An Armor Crewman is a highly trained soldier who operates and maintains the M1 Abrams tank, which is the backbone of the U.S. Army's armored forces / They work as part of a team to operate armored equipment and fire weapons to destroy enemy positions / During combat, their role is to operate tanks and amphibious assault vehicles to engage and destroy the enemy

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three



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major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / During its involvement in the Vietnam War, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners of war / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

The 2nd Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army that has served for more than two hundred years / It was constituted on 12 April 1808 as the 6th Infantry and consolidated with 4 other regiments in 1815 to form the present unit / In September 1965 the First and Second battalions deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vung Tau in October 1965 / From there they proceeded to their assigned areas, Phuoc Vinh for the 1st Battalion and Lai Khe for the 2nd Battalion / The battalions initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon / On 2 January 1967 the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / The 1st Battalion sustained its first major casualties of the war on 21 December 1965 when the enemy ambushed the command group of Company B as the company was moving out of Bien Hoa on routine patrol / On 25 August 1966 during Operation Amarillo a patrol from Company C, 1st Battalion was ambushed after stumbling into a Viet Cong base camp, losing 6 men killed of the 15-man patrol, total US losses in the operation were 41 killed, 45 Viet Cong bodies were found, while later intelligence indicated that Viet Cong losses were 171 men killed / During four and a half years the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bu Dop (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Loc, and An Loc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / Contact with the enemy was almost daily / When the 1st Infantry Division stood down in March and April 1970 the 1st and 2nd Battalion's colors were cased and the soldiers were either reassigned to other units in Vietnam or returned to the United States to be discharged

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **HERDLE**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JEFFERY

C.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

23RD CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON, TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (SMALL ARMS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant Jeffery C. Herdle honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSGT Jeffrey Herdle was deployed to Vietnam for 18 months serving as a Base Sanitary Maintenance Mechanic / SSGT Herdle was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat action

Jeffery Herdle received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force on 4 April 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jeffery C. Herdle passed away on 12 November 2017

Constituted as the 23rd Installations Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine on 10 Aug 1948, it was redesignated 23rd Civil Engineering Squadron and activated, 28 Jan 1964 / The squadron received many Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards during 1970-1997

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Name: **HOLODY**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JAMES

E.

Address: OAKBROOK DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR W/OAK LEAF CLUSTER

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James J. Holody honorably served in the United States Army / SGT James Holody was assigned as a Radio Operator in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam / SGT Holody was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Holody serves as Treasurer with the Independent Computer Services Corporation

The Field Radio Operator is skilled in the long list of radios for all frequency ranges and uses / The radios used are divided among the frequency range as well as for their specific uses / The Radioman will not be an infantryman or a tanker, but if assigned to those units, he will be fighting side by side with the members of those combat units and carrying a radio or operating the vehicle-mounted radio / Some select radiomen will get assigned to go out with the infantry companies and will be responsible for the communications in that company / However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators

Formed in 1921, the 1st Cavalry is based at Fort Hood, Texas / The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / The 1st Cavalry served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan (2001–2014) and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / While fighting in Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division was no



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longer a conventional infantry unit, the division had become an air assault division as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commonly referred to as the 1st Air Cavalry Division / The use of helicopters on such large scale as troop carriers, cargo lift ships, medevacs, and as aerial rocket artillery, was never before implemented, but by doing so it freed the infantry from the tyranny of terrain to attack the enemy at the time and place of its choosing / In 1965, colors and subordinate unit designations of the 1st Cavalry Division were transferred from Korea to Fort Benning, Georgia / During the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



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Name: **INCARDONA**
COSIMO **D.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Cosimo D. Incardona honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Cosimo Incardona was a graduate of Seneca Vocational High School/ After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Cosimo worked for the United States Postage Service, retiring after 35 years of service / Cosimo Incardona was a member of the Seneca High School Alumni Association and the Post Office NARFE / Incardona was a lifetime member of the Private Leonard Post Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 6251 and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #77 / Cosimo D. Incardona passed away on 9 February 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Name: **JASINSKI, SR.**
THOMAS E.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas E. "TJ" Jasinski, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas E. "TJ" Jasinski, Sr. was a life member of the National Association of Postal Supervisors, past director and life member of the Erie County Conservation Society, a life member of the Knights of Columbus Hamburg Council #2220, a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, a life member and past Commandant of Marine Corp League Detachment 239, and a member of the Marine Corp Heritage Foundation / Jasinski worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 37 years, retiring as acting General Supervisor of Motor Vehicle Services / Kasinski and his parents owned and operated Jasinski's Club 86 in Black Rock / Thomas E. "TJ" Jasinski, Sr. passed away on 11 May 2022



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Name: **JENKINS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GERARD

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

SMALL ARMS EXPERT RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Gerard F. "Jerry" Jenkins honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSGT Gerard Jenkins trained as a Personnel Specialist and was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months

Staff Sergeant (E-5) Gerard "Jerry" Jenkins was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 18 December 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerard F. "Jerry" Jenkins passed away on 4 September 2025 at the age of 80 years old

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January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is one of the unit awards of the United States Air Force / It was established in 1954 and was the first independent Air Force decoration created / The Outstanding Unit Award is awarded to any unit of the U.S. Air Force (including the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard) which performs exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishes specific acts of outstanding achievement, excels in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or conducts with distinct military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to, a hostile action by any opposing foreign force

The Air Force Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR) was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on August 28th, 1962 / It is awarded to all Air Force service members (Active and Reservists) who, qualifies as "Expert" in small-arms marksmanship with either the M-16 rifle or issue handgun after January 1st, 1963

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **JERGE**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DAVID

R.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: EO3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Equipment Operator (Hauling) 3rd Class David Robert Jerge honorably served in the United States Navy / EO3 David Jerge was deployed to Vietnam as a Truck Driver

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David R. Jerge was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

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Name: **JOHNSON**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GERALD

D.

Address: 245 NORTHWOOD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: MS-2

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS HANCOCK (CVA-19)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Machinist's Mate Petty Officer Second-Class Gerald Johnson honorably served in the United States Navy / MS-2 Johnson was part of the Deck Force, handling the ship lines on the USS Hancock / MS-2 Johnson also worked onboard in the mail room and as a ship's cook

MS-2 Gerald Johnson retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service

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

Miscellaneous:

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Jerry Johnson graduated from West Seneca High School / After an honorable discharge from the Navy, Gerald Johnson went to work at West Seneca West Senior High School as a Custodial Engineer / Johnson is a member and 1st Vice Commander of West Seneca American Legion Post 735

The USS Hancock (CV/CVA-19) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II / The ship was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name, and was named for John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress and first governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts / The Hancock was commissioned in April 1944, and served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, earning four



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battle stars / Decommissioned shortly after the end of WWII, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA) / In her second career, the Hancock operated exclusively in the Pacific, playing a prominent role in the Vietnam War, for which she earned a Navy Unit Commendation / The Hancock was the first US Navy carrier to have steam catapults installed / The USS Hancock was decommissioned in 1976 and sold for scrap

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) is a unit award of the United States Navy presented to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps units / The award is presented for service that is performed with character that would be comparable to the Bronze Star Medal / The Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps that has distinguished itself, under combat or non-combat conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement, which renders the unit outstanding compared to other units performing similar service, but not sufficient to justify award of the Navy Unit Commendation / To justify this award, the unit must have performed service of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of a Bronze Star Medal, or achievement of like caliber in a non-combat situation, to an individual / Additional awards are represented by wearing a Bronze Star device on the service ribbon

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Name: **KANDEFER, JR.**
STANLEY J.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: UNION ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Stanley J. Kandefer, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Kandefer taught specialized training to Army personnel while stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Sergeant Kandefer was deployed to Vietnam and was Wounded in Action, stepping on a land mine, while on a Search & Destroy mission in a remote section of Kon Tum province in South Vietnam / Sergeant Kandefer spent a year-and-a-half at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Colorado recovering from his wounds

Base Assignments:

Fort Benning, Georgia - Camp Benning, near Columbus, Georgia was established in 1909 and has served as the Home of the Infantry / Renamed Fort Benning in 1922, the base is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees, and civilian employees on a daily basis / It is a power projection platform, and possesses the capability to deploy combat-ready forces by air, rail, and highway

Fort Jackson, South Carolina - Located within the city of Columbia, the camp was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army General and seventh President of the United States of America / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers and 60 percent of the women entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission. 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually



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Miscellaneous:

Stanley J. Kandefer graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School in 1964 / Prior to being drafted into the U. S. Army, Kandefer graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business School with an Accounting Degree / After his Honorable Discharge, Kandefer, as a Master Plumber, went into the family business of heating and plumbing, eventually becoming the owner of Kandefer Plumbing & Heating, Inc. / Passing on the business to family members, Kandefer retired from the day-to-day activities but remains very active in the industry / Kandefer was instrumental in creating the West Seneca Vietnam Memorial, honoring those who lost their lives while serving in Vietnam / Stanley Kandefer is a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 8113 / Stanley J. Kandefer, Jr. passed away on 27 September 2023

The 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army / Trained for air assault operations, it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" / It is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / These particular operations are conducted by highly mobile teams covering extensive distances and engaging enemy forces behind enemy lines / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept it in the vanguard of US land combat forces in recent conflicts / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They literally fought in every area of Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / In May 1967 the 1st Brigade operated as part of Task Force Oregon / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent Division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / In almost seven years of combat in Vietnam, elements of the 101st participated in 15 campaigns / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The 101st Airborne were called the "Chicken Men" by the North Vietnamese because of their insignia. (The Vietnamese had never seen an eagle before) / Enemy commanders are said to have warned their men to avoid the Chicken Men at all costs because they were sure to lose any engagement with them / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam it suffered 4,011 killed in action and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award / The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941 / On or after 18 September 2001: a Soldier must be an Army infantry or special forces officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of Colonel or below, or an Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or special forces MOS, who has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires / A Soldier must be personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned infantry or Special Forces primary duty, in a unit engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires



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Name: **KARN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

WAYNE

D.

Address: 22 LARKWOOD ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

A CO, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MAGTF)

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Wayne Douglas Karn honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Wayne Karn was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Wayne Karn was Killed in Action on 20 June 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

In June 1967, with termination of Operation UNION, the Battalion retained its forward Command Post on Hill 51 and continued to conduct combat operations in the Que Son District of Quang Nam Province / During a security patrol on Route 514 west of Hill 51 near the village of Lanh Thoung several rounds of sniper fire rang out, LCPL Wayne Karn was struck and killed by the hostile fire

LCPL Karn was a Machine Gunner and served in Cuba for four months prior to being deployed to Vietnam

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



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Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is located on the Southern California coast, in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II and was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the west coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars with approximately 200,000 Marines passing through the base on their way to the Far East / In 1975 Camp Pendleton was the first military base in the U.S. to provide accommodations for Vietnamese evacuees in Operation New Arrivals; over 50,000 refugees came to the base in the largest humanitarian airlift in history / Camp Pendleton is the home for I Marine Expeditionary Force and various training commands

Miscellaneous:

Wayne Karn graduated from West Seneca Central High School in 1964 / After graduation, Karn was a dental technician for the Agthe Dental Laboratory / Prior to being drafted into the Marine Corps on 22 March 1966, Karn was a truck driver for Fisher-Price Toys / Wayne Douglas Karn was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Wayne Douglas Karn is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 25

Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June



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1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

The I Marine Expeditionary Force is a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) of the United States Marine Corps primarily composed of the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 1st Marine Logistics Group / It is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton / I Marine Expeditionary Force is the largest of the three MEFs in the Fleet Marine Force and is often referred to as the "Warfighting MEF" for its consistent involvement and contributions in major armed conflicts

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam



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Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **KELLER**
JOHN

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

L.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: SMN

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Seaman John L. Keller honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Name: **KERWIN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

BRIAN

L.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Brian L. Kerwin honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Brian Kerwin was active with the Boy Scouts of America / Kerwin was employed by the Veterans Administration until his retirement / Brian L. Kerwin passed away on 7 July 2024 at the age of 75 years old

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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

Name: **KILGER**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: RM3C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Radioman Third-Class Robert J. Kilger honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Navy Radioman (RM) was a rating for United States Navy and United States Coast Guard enlisted personnel, specializing in communications technology / The Radiomen of the US Navy were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / They were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas



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Name: **KLINSHAW**
NORBERT J.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

129TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Norbert J. "Norb" Klinshaw honorably served in the United States Army / Norbert Klinshaw was assigned as a crew Chief and gunner in the Army's 129th Assault Helicopter Company / Norbert Klinshaw was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Norbert J. Klinshaw went to work for Bethlehem Steel as a steelworker before his retirement / Klinshaw joined the Winchester Fire Company and served as a Volunteer Fireman for 57 years / Norbert J. "Norb" Klinshaw passed away on 29 March 2021 at the age of 75 years old

The 129th Aviation Company was formed July 3rd 1965 and was activated July 5th 1965 at Fort Campbell , Kentucky / The 129th Aviation Company served in Vietnam from 21 October 1965 to 8th March 1973 / The 129th was assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion which arrived in Vietnam on 29th October 1965 / The primary mission of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company was to provide tactical air movement of the U.S. and allied troops in connection with counter-insurgency operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam / The secondary mission of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company was to provide tactical air movement of supplies and equipment within the tactical area of responsibility

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight



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Name: **KNEZEVIC**
THOMAS J.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Thomas J. "TK" Knezevic honorably served in the United States Army / Thomas Knezevic was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Thomas Knezevic was assigned to the 6th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade in Vietnam at Base LZ Bayonet, near Chu Lai / Thomas Knezevic was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Thomas Knezevic received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 28 January 1971

Base Assignments:

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located approximately 56 miles southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a U.S. military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Originally established by the Marines, the base was handed over to the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in April 1967 and subsequently became the headquarters and base area for the 23rd Americal Division from September 1967 until November 1971

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Knezevic retired from the Ford Stamping Plant / Thomas J. "TK" Knezevic passed away on 16 May 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate



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under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 198th Infantry Brigade, was first formed as part of the United States Army Reserve's 99th Division / It was active from 1967 through 1971 and has been active since 2007 as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia / During the years of 1967–1971, as part of the Vietnam War, the 198th was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division / In 1968, elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade participated in the Battle of Kham Duc / Reactivated on 15 May 2007, the 198th Infantry Brigade now serves as an Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia with the mission to train and prepare infantry soldiers for their critical roles in the U.S. Army

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KOSIS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ANTHONY D.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Anthony D. Kosis honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony D. Kosis passed away on 12 November 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KOSMOSKI, JR.**

STANLEY

A.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Stanley A. "Jack Welles" Kosmoski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley A. "Jack Welles" Kosmoski, Jr. passed away on 16 January 2023



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KOWAL**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

S.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert S. Kowal honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Robert Kowal was deployed to Vietnam as a Forward Artillery Observer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Kowal graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1962 / in 1964, Kowal graduated from Bryant and Stratton Business Institute with an Associates Degree / Robert Kowal was drafted into the United States Army in 1968 / After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Kowal graduated with a Bachelor's of Business Administration Degree in 1981 from Empire State College / Kowal served as the General Manager of the Star, Skyway and Park Drive-ins and Regional Manager of the Blatt Brothers theater chain based out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania / During the 1970's, Robert Kowal owned "Bobby's", a diner in Downtown Buffalo, New York / In 1981, Kowal and his wife purchased the Aurora Theatre in East Aurora and operated the theatre until 2003, working as a Business Consultant to Aurora Ventures / Robert Kowal served several years on the Executive Board of Directors of the National Association of Theater Owners / Robert S. Kowal passed away on 18 March 2023 at the age of 79 years old and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York

The primary duties of the Forward Artillery Observer was to direct the fire of an artillery unit from a forward position / Observes shell bursts and adjusts fire by forward observation or computation methods; consults with commanders of supported unit in determination of appropriate artillery targets, normal barrage, and zones of defense; trains personnel in procedures of artillery operation; organizes observation posts; sets up and maintains communication systems



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRAMER**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

W.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CW3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert W. Kramer honorably served in the United States Army / CW3 Edmund Kubik was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Name: **KRAWCZYK**
EUGENE

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

D.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Eugene D. Krawczyk honorably served in the United States Army / Eugene Krawczyk was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Eugene Krawczyk was a partner at Clinton Auto and Truck in West Seneca / Krawczyk was a life member of the Union Fire Company in West Seneca and a Shaklee Key Coordinator / Eugene D. Krawczyk passed away on 31 March 2026 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRONTHALER**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PAUL

J.

Address: 139 ALLENDALE ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH AIR CALVARY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First Class Paul John Kronthaler honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Paul Kronthaler was deployed to Vietnam on 31 March 1969 and was Killed In Action on 6 May 1969 from bullet wounds sustained from enemy gunfire at Firebase Carolyn, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of 6 May 1969, Firebase Carolyn, was attacked by an estimated 300 North Vietnamese Army regulars who charged out of the bamboo forest surrounding the camp in a desperate attempt to overrun the position / The NVA broke through the barbed wire defenses at two points and occupied and held six of the perimeter bunkers and one of the gun positions for nearly two hours / The assault was preceded by a heavy barrage of rocket and mortar fire / After penetrating the perimeter, the enemy ran at the American bunkers, hurling grenades and satchel charges and firing their AK-47's / The force of the attack drove out the U.S. soldiers, and the dugouts were immediately occupied by the NVA / The charge was stopped when the Americans shot holes into the fuel drums near the bunkers and ignited flowing rivers of gas to create a flaming barrier, which effectively blocked further enemy penetration

From that point, PFC Paul Kronthaler and his fellow soldiers counterattacked with all available personnel, with the officers involved being killed at the head of their troops / Artillerymen, supply and signal personnel, and engineers fought and died, serving as emergency infantry reserves / Their counterattacks were hurled against both enemy penetrations, but the most violent fighting occurred on the northern side of Carolyn, where a



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seesaw battle raged for possession of the 155mm howitzer position / During the course of the battle, this weapon exchanged hands 3 times in hand-to-hand fighting decided at close range with rifles and entrenching tools, or shovels

Another light howitzer section was caught in an enemy crossfire between a heavy machine gun and rifles until the U.S. artillerymen managed to turn their lowered muzzle and pump "Beehive" flechettes, small, pointed, fin-stabilized steel into the enemy / All enemy automatic weapon fire against the howitzer was instantly silenced / As Cavalry counterattacks continued, the Americans reestablished the perimeter, and the enemy force began withdrawing, breaking contact at 6:00 AM / After the battle ended and the smoke cleared, 10 U.S. soldiers lay dead and 62 others wounded / Enemy losses were 101 killed and 29 captured / The Americans Killed in Action included Private First-Class Paul John Kronthaler / PFC Paul Kronthaler was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during combat action and the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during the fierce fighting

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Kronthaler was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central School and had received his Bachelor's Degree from Brockport State College in June 1968, prior to joining the Army in October 1968 / Paul John Kronthaler was 22 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Paul John Kronthaler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 12

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The 8th Infantry Regiment was constituted as an infantry regiment on 5 July 1838 in the Regular Army / The 8th Infantry is also known as the "Fighting Eagles", is an infantry regiment in the United States Army / The 8th Infantry participated in the Mexican War, American Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Moro Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, and Iraq Campaign / During Operation Wayne Grey at Landing Zone Brace 3 March 1969 in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion Company "A" had at least 21 fatalities

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / Based at Fort Hood, Texas, the 1st Cavalry was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a



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combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961



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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KUBICKI, SR.**
DONALD J.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Donald J. Kubicki, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donald Kubicki was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KUBIK**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

EDMUND J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Edmund J. Kubik honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Edmund Kubik was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KWAS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DANIEL

P.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

199 INFANTRY BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Daniel Paul Kwas honorably served in the United States Army / Daniel Kwas was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1940, in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in the Vietnam War), briefly in 1991–1992 at Fort Lewis, and from 2007 as an active army training formation at Fort Moore / The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War / Nicknamed "the Redcatchers", the unit was hastily moved to Song Be, Vietnam on 10 December 1966 to provide an increased U.S. presence in the III Corps Tactical Zone and remained there until its return to Fort Benning on 11 October 1970 / The brigade was conducting Operation Uniontown in Dong Nai Province when the 1968 Tet Offensive began / It immediately began a defense of U.S. II Field Force headquarters at Long Binh Post against attacks by the VC 275th Regiment / One battalion was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong command post at the Phu Tho racetrack inside Saigon, then engaged in house-to-house fighting in Cholon / During 1969, the 199th was responsible for the security of the region north and east of the capital, and in 1970 moved into the "Iron Triangle" when other units participated in the Cambodian Incursion / The brigade was deactivated in 1970 until it was reactivated in 1991 and 2006

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Name: KWITOWSKI

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

CARL

E.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Carl E. Kwitowski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Name: **LAZARZ**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PATRICK

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: GMG3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gunner's Mate (Guns) Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick J. Lazarz honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

A US Navy Gunner's Mate is a sailor who specializes in the operation, maintenance, and repair of different types of firearms on board ships / They are responsible for the operation and maintenance of guided missile launching systems, gun mounts, and other ordnance equipment, as well as small arms and magazines / The primary responsibility of a Gunners Mate is to maintain various types of large-caliber weapons systems on naval ships such as cannons, machine guns or torpedoes / Besides maintaining these weapon systems they are also responsible for storing and issuing ammunition as required / A gunnery mate may also be assigned with the task of operating any type or caliber gun on-board / During training sessions or live operations they could work with deck crews to coordinate firing solutions while keeping track targets using radar equipment installed below decks



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LONG**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PAUL

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant Paul J. Long honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul J. Long passed away on 25 October 2013



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: MAHLMEISTER

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

THOMAS

R.

Address: SENECA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

4713TH RADAR EVALUATION SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Thomas R. Mahlmeister honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam / SSGT Mahlmeister was part of his unit's Honor Guard at the funeral of Astronaut Gus Grissom who perished when his Apollo 1 Command Module interior caught fire and burned on January 27, 1967 during a pre-launch test

Base Assignments:

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 June 1941, and it was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, New York - Stewart AFB is named after Captain Lachlan Stewart, a 19th Scottish-born sea captain who skippered schooners and other sailing vessels around 1850-1870 / During World War II the City of Newburgh turned the airport over to the United States Government for the purposes of training West Point cadets to fly / The field grew and at the end of World War II it became Stewart Air Force Base / Stewart was used for North American Air Defense (Headquarters US Army Air Defense Command Region I) until 1972, when the Air Force determined that the base was excess, and deeded Stewart Air Force Base to the State of New York

Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam - Located near the city of Saigon in southern Vietnam, the French



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Colonial government of Indochina constructed a small unpaved airport in the 1920s, known as Tan Son Nhat Airfield / During the Vietnam War (1959-1975), Tan Son Nhut was a major United States base for Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine units / As the headquarters for the South Vietnamese Air Force, Tan Son Nhut was primarily a command base, with most operational units using nearby Bien Hoa Air Base

Miscellaneous:

Thomas R. Mahlmeister graduated from Seneca Vocational High School and worked for AT&T prior to entering the military / After his Honorable Discharge, Mahlmeister went to work for Moog where he was employed as a technician in the Aerospace Department until his retirement / Thomas R. Mahlmeister passed away on 4 February 2017 at the age of 70 years old and is interred in the Field of Valor within St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Fellow Apollo 1 astronauts Senior Pilot Ed White, who had flown in space on the Gemini 4 mission when he became the first American to make a spacewalk, and Pilot Roger B. Chaffee were also lost in the module fire on January 27, 1967 / Grissom's funeral services and burial at Arlington National Cemetery were held on January 31, 1967 / Dignitaries in attendance included President Lyndon B. Johnson, members of the U.S. Congress, and fellow NASA astronauts

Activated in 1954 at Griffiss AFB, New York, the mission of the Defense Systems Evaluation Squadron was to provide Electronic Counter-Measure (ECM) training and evaluation services to the various Aircraft Control and Warning Squadrons / The squadron was initially assigned TB-29 Superfortresses, and some TB-25 Mitchells / The B-29s and B-25s contained an assortment of Radar jamming devices to provide the required ECM and a C-47 was used as a support aircraft to ferry personnel and equipment / During the period that the 4713th operated these aircraft, they provided the operators radar squadrons with thousands of hours of ECM training / Effective 8 July 1958, the ADC re-designated the unit as the 4713th Radar Evaluation Squadron (ECM) / In the early years of the 1960's, the squadron was moved to Stewart AFB, New York and operated until 1974 when the squadron was inactivated

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960-) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: MAITLAND
THOMAS

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Thomas Maitland honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MANLEY**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JAMES

E.

Address: LARKWOOD ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

2046TH COMMUNICATIONS GROUP - MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND (MAC)

1876TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

1ACOMGP - STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND (SAC)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NEW YORK STATE MEDAL FOR MERIT

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James E. Manley honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT James Manley was assigned as a Data Communications Center Operator at Wright-Patterson AFB / SGT Manley was deployed to Vietnam and advised 7th Air Force Computer Operations personnel in correct electrical communications procedures using the IBM 360/50 SEEK Data II computer at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base, Vietnam

While stationed with the Military Airlift Command (MAC), SGT Manley was a Cryptographic Specialist using military-grade encryption devices

Serving with the Strategic Air Command, Manley operated computers that communicated with the Air Force flying command posts (Operation "Looking Glass") for the Strategic Air Command in the event of nuclear war

Sergeant James Manley was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 14 April 1972

Base Assignments:

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 June 1941, and was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training



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(BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas - Sheppard AFB, located near Wichita Falls, was is named in honor of Senator John Morris Sheppard of Texas (1875–1941), chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee from 1933 until his death on 9 April 1941 / Senator Sheppard helped lead the fight for military preparedness before the attack on Pearl Harbor / It was officially opened as a United States Army Air Corps training center on 17 October 1941, following the arrival of the first military members on 14 June 1941 / As the Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces, facilities were completed sufficiently to allow the first class of 22 aviation mechanics to enter training that October; the class graduated 23 February 1942 / Sheppard Field reached its peak strength of 46,340 people while serving as a separation center for troops being discharged following World War II from September through November 1945 / Communications, refrigeration, air conditioning, and power production operator and repairman training were transferred to Sheppard in 1959

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio - The base's origin begins with the establishment of Wilbur Wright Field on 22 May 1917 and McCook Field in November 1917, both established by the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps as World War I installations / McCook was used as a testing field and for aviation experiments. Wright was used as a flying field (renamed Patterson Field in 1931); Fairfield Aviation General Supply Depot; armorers' school, and a temporary storage depot / McCook's functions were transferred to Wright Field when it was closed in October 1927 / Wright-Patterson AFB was established in 1948 as a merger of Patterson and Wright Fields / The base is one of the largest, most diverse, and organizationally complex bases in the Air Force with a long history of flight tests spanning from the Wright Brothers into the Space Age / Wright-Patterson is also the headquarters of the Aeronautical Systems Center and the Air Force Research Laboratory / It is the headquarters of the Air Force Materiel Command (MAC), one of the major commands of the Air Force / "Wright-Patt" (as the base is colloquially called) is also the location of a major USAF Medical Center (hospital), the Air Force Institute of Technology, and the National Museum of the United States Air Force, formerly known as the U.S. Air Force Museum

Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam - Located near the city of Saigon in southern Vietnam, the French Colonial government of Indochina constructed a small unpaved airport in the 1920s, known as Tan Son Nhat Airfield / During the Vietnam War (1959-1975), Tan Son Nhut was a major United States base for Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine units / As the headquarters for the South Vietnamese Air Force, Tan Son Nhut was primarily a command base, with most operational units using nearby Bien Hoa Air Base

Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska - The base was named to honor First Lieutenant Jarvis Jennes Offutt (26 October 1894 – 13 August 1918), the first native of Omaha to become a casualty in World War I / Lieutenant Offutt died of injuries sustained when his SE-5 fighter crashed during a training flight near Valheureux, France / In November 1948, Offutt became the host base for Headquarters Strategic Air Command (SAC) / During the Cold War, a general and various support personnel from the base were airborne 24-hours a day on an EC-135 from February 1961 to July 1990 in Operation Looking Glass, creating an airborne command post in case of war / Operation Looking Glass carried out its mission without any mishaps or incidents during its 29 years of existence / Offutt AFB's legacy includes the construction of the first two bombers to drop atomic bombs and over 40 years as the headquarters for the former Strategic Air Command (SAC) and home for its associated ground and aerial command centers for the U.S. in case of nuclear war during the Cold War



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Miscellaneous:

James Manley graduated from Kenmore East Senior High School in 1966 / Prior to joining the U. S. Air Force, Manley worked in the Mail Room and Maintenance Department at Merchants Mutual Insurance Company / Manley enlisted in the U.S Air Force in April 1968 / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Manley returned to Merchants Mutual as a Computer Operator / In 1980, Manley went to work for Biel's Microfilm Corp as the Production Manager until downsizing in 1995 / With a Certificate in Records Management, Manley went to work in the West Seneca Town Clerk's Office in 1997 until his retirement in 2010 / Manley graduated from Erie Community College (ECC) in 2003 with a degree in Computer Information Systems / James Manley is an active member of American Legion Post #735, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #8113 and Post #2940 and the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee, serving as Chairman for many years / Manley also served as the Administrator of the Walkway of Freedom complex / James Manley was a member of the West Seneca Auxiliary Police and a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Originally part of the 1062nd USAF Communications Squadron, the squadron was redesignated as the 2046th Communications Squadron at Wright-Patterson AFB in January 1953 / The 2046th supported the mission of the Military Airlift Command (MAC)

The 1876th Communications Squadron was a unit of the United States Air Force that performed communications functions in the Republic of Vietnam from 1965 to 1972 during the Vietnam War / The squadron was first organized at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, on 1 November 1965, as a dependent squadron under the 1964th Communications Group (AFCS) / Its mission was to provide command and control communications for United States military personnel engaged in operations against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese enemy forces / While in Vietnam, the 1876th was presented seven Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and earned six battle streamers / The 1876th was also awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm / The 1876th was transferred to the United States Air Force Academy in April 1972, where it was upgraded to a group in 1995 / It has been inactive since the early 1990s when USAF organizational changes had it replaced by an org with an older lineage

Strategic Air Command (SAC) was a United States Department of Defense Specified Command and a United States Air Force (USAF) Major Command responsible for command and control of the strategic bomber and intercontinental ballistic missile components of the United States military's strategic nuclear forces from 1946 to 1992 / SAC was also responsible for strategic reconnaissance aircraft; airborne command posts; and most of the USAF's aerial refueling aircraft / SAC primarily consisted of the Second Air Force (2AF), Eighth Air Force (8AF) and the Fifteenth Air Force (15AF), while SAC headquarters (HQ SAC) included Directorates for Operations & Plans, Intelligence, Command & Control, Maintenance, Training, Communications, and Personnel / At a lower echelon, SAC headquarters divisions included Aircraft Engineering, Missile Concept and Strategic Communications

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government



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awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Commendation Medal is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for meritorious service / The Department of the Air Force began issuing its own Air Force Commendation Medal in 1958 with additional awards denoted by oak leaf clusters / Prior to this time, USAF recipients received the Army Commendation Medal / It was not until 1996 that the "V" device was authorized on the Air Force Commendation Medal; prior to 1996, there was not a valor distinction in effect for the Air Force Commendation Medal / On January 7, 2016, the "C" device and "R" device was authorized on the Air Force Commendation Medal as well / For USAF enlisted personnel, the Air Force Commendation Medal is worth three points under the Air Force enlisted promotion system / On 16 November 2020, it was renamed the Air and Space Commendation Medal (ASCOM) by the Secretary of the Air Force

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

The NYS Medal for Merit may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; or, a non-New York State citizen who is an active member in the New York State organized militia, and as an active member in the New York State organized militia, served with units of the New York State organized militia while on federal active duty for purposes other than training and/or annual training; whose entire service was honorable and who were recipients of a valor, achievement, commendation, or meritorious service decoration, of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross, or whose service was in direct support of combat operations while serving in the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard / This medal shall be awarded only to those persons whose entire service, subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation, shall have been honorable



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MEISSNER**
KEITH

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

E.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: LT. COLONEL

Year Entered: 1955

Year Discharged: 1980

Unit / Squadron:

39TH SIGNAL BATTALION

221ST AVIATION COMPANY "SHOTGUNS"

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Keith E. Meissner honorably served in the United States Army / Upon completion of Basic Training, Lt. Colonel Keith Meissner took helicopter mechanic training in 1955 at Gary Air Force Base, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama / Meissner applied for and was accepted a Regular Army appointment at West Point in 1956 / Meissner graduated from West Point in 1961 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant / In 1964-1965, Lieutenant Meissner underwent Fixed Wing Pilot training, and received his Army Aviator wings in August 1965 / Meissner served two tours in Vietnam / In between tours, Meissner trained as an airman and flew spotter upon returning to Vietnam / Lt. Colonel Meissner's last command was as Manager, Command, Control, Communications Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Gary Air Force, San Marcos, Texas - Originally named San Marcos Army Air Field, the base was opened in December 1942 / The mission of the new installation was navigator training, and the first unit to occupy the field was the 2536th Army Air Forces Base Unit arriving on 13 February 1943 / With classes arriving about every three weeks, by September 1945, when the navigator mission ended, roughly 10,000 navigators had been trained / In May 1946 the field began training helicopter pilots / With twenty-one squadrons assigned to San Marcos Army



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Air Field and over 4,800 personnel, the base was the largest training operation for air force helicopter pilots in the United States / Pilot training was provided for both army and air force helicopter pilots and maintenance training for army and air force enlisted mechanics / On 16 May 1953, the base was renamed Gary Air Force Base in honor of 2d Lt. Arthur Edward Gary, the first San Marcos resident killed in World War II / Lt. Gary was killed when Japanese bombers attacked Clark Field in the Philippines on 7 December 1941 / Gary AFB was transferred to the army in 1956 and became Camp Gary / Camp Gary closed in December 1963

Ft. Rucker, Alabama - Fort Rucker (Formerly Camp Rucker) is a U.S. Army post located primarily in Dale County, Alabama, United States / Opened on 1 May 1942, it was named for a Civil War officer, Confederate General Edmund Rucker / The post is the primary flight training installation for U.S. Army Aviators and is home to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) and the United States Army Aviation Museum / Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of units of less than division size; these included tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units / During the latter part of the Second World War, several hundred German and a few Italian prisoners-of-war were housed in stockades near the railroad east of the warehouse area, on the southern edge of the post / The 91st Infantry Division was sent to Camp Rucker at the end of the war, being deactivated in December 1945 / Camp Rucker was inactive from March 1946 until August 1950 / It was reopened during the Korean War / The name was changed to "Fort Rucker" in October 1955 / The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls for the establishment of an eight-person committee to develop a plan to remove all names, symbols, displays, and monuments that honor or commemorate the Confederacy from all Department of Defense assets, including Fort Rucker / In 2021, the Moore family started a petition to rename the fort in honor of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black brigadier general in the USAF

Stewart Air Force Base -

West Point -

Fort Monmouth, New Jersey - Fort Monmouth is a former installation of the Department of the Army in Monmouth County, New Jersey / Originally called Camp Alfred Vail, in 1925 the Fort was renamed Fort Monmouth / It was named in honor of the soldiers of the American Revolutionary War who died in the Battle of Monmouth / At its peak during World War II, Fort Monmouth measured 1,713 acres and had billeting space for 1,559 officers and 19,786 enlisted personnel / The Eastern Signal Corps Training Center and other communication units, including the Pigeon Breeding and Training Center, were consolidated into Fort Monmouth after World War II ended / The pigeon service was discontinued in 1957; the birds were either sold at auction or donated to zoos / Slated by the Pentagon for closure, Fort Monmouth was officially closed on 15 September 2011

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, 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 divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to



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Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Lakehurst Naval Air Station, New Jersey -

Fort Ord & Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, CA -

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas -

U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany.

Miscellaneous:

Keith Meissner joined the Army at the age of 17 years after graduating from West Seneca West Senior High School / Meissner wrestled at West Point while training to be an officer / Meissner retired in July 1980 from the U.S. Army with an Honorable Discharge after 21 years of military duty, two years Enlisted Service and 19 years Commissioned Service / Upon retiring Keith Meissner moved to Saxonburg, Pennsylvania where he volunteered as an assistant wrestling coach at a Pennsylvania high school / In 2021, Keith Meissner donated \$55,000 to West Seneca West Senior High School to establish a wrestling scholarship

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MENDOLA**
GREGORY A.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gregory A. Mendola honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gregory A. Mendola passed away on 8 March 2014 and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: MEYER, SR.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DAVID

M.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

194TH MP COMPANY, US ARMY PACIFIC

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (PISTOL)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant David Michael Meyer, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Meyer served 21 months in Vietnam from 1966 through 1968 as a member of the Military Police

David Meyer, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 26 November 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Meyer went to work for CSX and retired 42 years later / David Meyer was a member of Vietnam Veterans Chapter #77, Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940, American Legion Post #735, Amvets Post #897, a member of UTU #1393 and a Gold Star Father / David Michael Meyer, Sr. passed away on 13 January 2019

The Military Police Corps is the uniformed law enforcement branch of the United States Army / Investigations are conducted by Military Police Investigators under the Provost Marshall Office or Special Agents of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division (USACID) / United States Army Military Police units have combat zone responsibilities in addition to their law enforcement duties / These responsibilities include mounted and dismounted patrols, response force operations, area damage control, route reconnaissance, cordon and search operations, critical site security, and convoy and personnel escorts / Operationally, these duties fall under the "security and mobility support" discipline of the Military Police Corps



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The 19th Military Police (MP) Company was constituted 10 June 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 194th Military Police Company / The 194th served in North Africa during World War II / The 194th MP Company served in Vietnam from May 1967 through June 1972, earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation

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A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MIRANDA**
DOMINIC

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Dominic Miranda honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MONIN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

FRANCIS

G.

Address: 3407 CLINTON STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, F COMPANY

USS ESSEX (CV/CVA/CVS-9)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Francis George Monin honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Francis Monin was deployed to Vietnam / Corporal Francis Monin was Killed In Action on 5 July 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam / CPL Monin was a rifleman and had arrived for his tour duty in Vietnam one month prior to his death

Following the 3-4 July 1967 enemy attack on the Nong Son outpost south of the An Hoa Combat Base overlooking the Thu Bon River, the enemy continued to probe the Marines positions / Both Company "F" on the outpost and Company "E" that was located half way to the top of the mountain / On July 5, Company "F" was hit with small arms fire and several hand grenades resulting in CPL Francis Monin being killed by the hostile rifle fire

CPL Monin was stationed aboard the USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) prior to receiving orders for duty in Vietnam

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.



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Miscellaneous:

Francis Monin was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central High School / Monin enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 6 November 1964 / Francis George Monin was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Francis George Monin is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23e, Line 13

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion 5th Marines (2/5 or "Two Five") is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps consisting of approximately 800 marines and sailors / They are based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and fall under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion has seen combat in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War and has deployed many times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current War on Terror / 2/5 is the most highly decorated battalion in the Marine Corps, and their motto, "Retreat, Hell!", comes from the French trenches of World War I, when a Marine officer named Lloyd W. Williams was advised by a French officer to retreat and replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" / In April 1966, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and served there until 1971 / During this time, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines participated in combat operations at Hue, Que Sơn, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Phu Loc / Immediately after their return to Camp Pendleton in 1971, the battalion joined Operation New Arrivals, the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States

The USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) was an aircraft carrier and the lead ship of the 24-ship Essex class built for the



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United States Navy during World War II / She was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name / Commissioned on 31 December 1942, Essex participated in several campaigns in the World War II Pacific Theater of Operations, earning the Presidential Unit Citation and 13 battle stars / Decommissioned shortly after the end of the war, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), eventually becoming an antisubmarine aircraft carrier (CVS) / In her second career, she served mainly in the Atlantic, playing a role in the Cuban Missile Crisis / She also participated in the Korean War, earning four battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation / She was the primary recovery carrier for the Apollo 7 space mission / Essex was decommissioned on 30 June 1969 at Boston Navy Yard / She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 June 1973 and sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 1 June 1975 / Essex was scrapped at Kearny, New Jersey

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United



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States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **NEUBAUER**
GORDON

P.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Gordon P. Neubauer honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Gordon Neubauer was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gordon P. Neubauer passed away on 15 July 1989 at the age of 43 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'CONNOR**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

KEVIN

H.

Address: 91 ROSEWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: YNSN

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

NAVSUPPACT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Yeoman Seaman Kevin Harold O'Connor honorably served in the United States Navy and served as a Clerk

Base Assignments:

NAVSUPPACT, DaNang, Vietnam - Naval Support Activity Danang or NSA Danang was a United States Navy logistics support organization located in Danang, South Vietnam active from October 1965 to April 1972

Miscellaneous:

Kevin H. O'Connor was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

Yeoman Seaman perform data entry, typing and routing of official correspondence and other essential reports, organizes and maintains all associated work files in an orderly manner, receives office visitors and handles all necessary telephone communications, performs hands-on work using personal computers for word processing along with using copiers, audio-recording devices, and other office equipment, performs administrative type duties in an office setting, maintains relevant personnel and job records along with other official publications, performs administrative functions that coincide with Navy legal proceedings, acts in the capacity of being an office manager and performs other various clerical and administrative duties as assigned

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'DONNELL**
AL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Alwin H. "Butch" O'Donnell honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Al O'Donnell was deployed to Vietnam

SFC Al O'Donnell also participated in the Persian Gulf War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Al O'Donnell was a life member of the American Legion Post #721, AMVETS, DAV, 74/174 Vets Club and a gold club member of the Carriagers Club / Alwin H. "Butch" O'Donnell passed away on 4 December 2021



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OEHLER**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ALBERT

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

Albert John Oehler, II honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry / Albert Oehler was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat operations

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Albert Oehler spent 40 years as a refrigerator mechanic for Pepsi / Albert John Oehler, II passed away on 2 October 2024 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter



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case posthumously



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OWCZARCZAK**

MELVIN

J.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 75 CIRCLE END DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2LT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 321ST ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Second Lieutenant Melvin Joseph Owczarczak honorably served in the United States Army / 2nd LT Melvin Owczarczak was deployed to Vietnam on 20 June 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 2LT Owczarczak was Killed in Action on 1 September 1968 from a booby trap set by the enemy in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

2nd LT Owczarczak was wounded during combat operations along the coastal plain between the City of Hue and Vin Loc Island on the South China Sea / He was evacuated to a Navy hospital ship, "Repose", but the injury was fatal and 2LT Owczarczak died of his wounds

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak received his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1967 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and completed artillery training at Ft Sill Oklahoma in the Spring of 1968

LT Owczarczak had served in Vietnam less than three months and was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

Base Assignments:

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania - A U.S. Army post primarily located in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania and served as a National Guard Training Center / During the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the Vietnam War, Fort Indiantown Gap served as one of the largest Reserve Officers Training Corps summer camps for the U.S.



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Army

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars / Ft. Sill serves as the home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Fires Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / In 1963 the 1st Aerial Artillery Group (Provisional) was organized to test equipping CH-34 helicopters with rocket pods attached to each side. The rockets converted a transport aircraft, an easy target in most combat situations, into a sophisticated flying weapon capable of direct or indirect fires. It was the ancestor to the Cheyenne and Long Bow attack helicopters of today

Miscellaneous:

Melvin Owczarczak was a 1961 graduate of St. Francis High School and graduated in 1967 from St. Bonaventure University with a degree in Mathematics / Owczarczak also operated a radio station on the St. Bonaventure campus / Melvin Joseph Owczarczak was 25 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 45w, Line 19

The Field Artillery Unit Commander is a position in the U.S. Army that plans, coordinates, and directs field artillery activities / The Field Artillery branch traces its origins to 1775 when the Continental Congress elected Henry Knox as "Colonel of the Regiment of Artillery" / The Field Artillery officers serve in various Army formations and have diverse assignment opportunities

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army and trained for air assault operations / it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" and is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / During World War II, the 101st was renowned for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France), Operation Market Garden, the liberation of the Netherlands and, perhaps most famously, its action during the Battle of the Bulge around the city of Bastogne, Belgium / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969

The 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (1-321st FAR) is an inactive field artillery battalion of the United States Army / The battalion served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror with the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions, and with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade / 1st Battalion, 321st



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Artillery (1-321) deployed to Vietnam attached to the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from 12 – 17 December 1967 / the battalion supported Operations Manchester, San Angelo and Atalla / From 10–11 January 1968, the battalion fired 1,935 rounds in support of a 25th Infantry Division fire support base, resulting in a large number of enemy killed / During its first two months in Vietnam, the battalion fired 19,150 rounds / On 22 November 1969, four howitzers from Battery A, accompanied by three howitzers from Battery B, 2-11 Arty, moved to FSB Bradley for a raid / The Battery A element fired 514 rounds against 65 targets before returning to LZ Sally / The raid destroyed 17 bunkers, six huts, three fighting positions and two bridges; caused two secondary fires; and interdicted five infiltration routes / Battery A returned to LZ Sally on 10 January 1970 and moved again to FSB Strike on 12 January 1970 and remained there until 25 January 1970 / The battalion was officially inactivated in March 2014, and its firing batteries were distributed throughout the 82nd Airborne Division

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PACHOLSKI**
JEROME **J.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Jerome J. Pacholski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PACHULSKI**
JAMES

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

1ST BATTALION, 44TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 BRONZE SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class James F. Pachulski honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 James Pachulski was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months as a Radio Operator / Pachulski was assigned to the US Military Assistance Command - Vietnam (MAC-V) where he distinguished himself by meritorious service with the 1st Battalion, 44th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division

James F. Pachulski was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 17 January 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James F. Pachulski passed away on 1 July 2022 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The Field Radio Operator is skilled in the long list of radios for all frequency ranges and uses / The radios used are divided among the frequency range as well as for their specific uses / The Radioman will not be an infantryman or a tanker, but if assigned to those units, he will be fighting side by side with the members of those combat units and carrying a radio or operating the vehicle-mounted radio / Some select radiomen will get assigned to go out with the infantry companies and will be responsible for the communications in that company



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/ However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators

The United States Army Signal Corps was established in 1860 and was used in World War II to coordinate swift and accurate communication for air, ground, and naval units required more sophisticated technology and service /The Signal Corps develops, tests, provides, and manages communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined arms forces / The Signal Corps pioneered in the development of radar to detect approaching aircraft as well as mobile communications and deciphering machines / In addition to its primary role in military transmissions, the unit also played a key role in producing training films for army and civilian personnel, and documenting combat missions / During World War II, noted Hollywood producers, directors, and photographers (such as Darryl Zanuck, Frank Capra, John Huston, and George Stevens) all served in the Signal Corps

U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense / MACV was created on 8 February 1962, in response to the increase in United States military assistance to South Vietnam / MACV was first implemented to assist the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Vietnam, controlling every advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam, but was reorganized on 15 May 1964 and absorbed MAAG Vietnam to its command when combat unit deployment became too large for advisory group control / In April 1966, all Army communications-electronics resources in South Vietnam were combined in a single formation, the 1st Signal Brigade which supported the combat signal battalions of the divisions and field forces in each corps area

The 23rd Infantry Division, known as the "Americal Division," was the only U.S. Army division formed outside the United States, activated on 27 May 1942 in New Caledonia / It played a significant role during World War II and was involved in the Vietnam War / The division is recognized for its contributions to infantry tactics and logistics, and it was nicknamed "Ever Ready"

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941



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The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PAUL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DENNIS

K.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Dennis Paul honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Dennis Paul was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



West Seneca

Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PERLINGER**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DANIEL

M.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE RIBBON W/4 BATTLE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance-Corporal Daniel M. Perlinger honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Daniel Perlinger was assigned as a Field Radio Operator during 12 months of deployment to Vietnam

Daniel Perlinger received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 6 February 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel M. Perlinger passed away on 17 April 2018 at the age of 69 years old

The Field Radio Operator is skilled in the long list of radios for all frequency ranges and uses / The radios used are divided among the frequency range as well as for their specific uses / The Radioman will not be an infantryman or a tanker, but if assigned to those units, he will be fighting side by side with the members of those combat units and carrying a radio or operating the vehicle-mounted radio / Some select radiomen will get assigned to go out with the infantry companies and will be responsible for the communications in that company / However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all



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members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **PETRI**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

RICHARD

W.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman First Class Richard W. Petri honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard W. Petri passed away on 15 February 2021 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Saint Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PHILLIPS

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JAMES

F.

Address: 90 HARLEM ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

88TH ARTILLERY GROUP (NIKE MISSILES)

1ST AIR CAVALRY

Medals / Citations:

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (VIETNAM)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (RESERVES)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class James F. Phillips honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 James Phillips was stationed with the 1st Air Cavalry at Camp Radcliff in the district of An Khê, South Vietnam / SP4 Phillips fought and survived a surprise attack on his base during the Tet Offensive / On January 1968, 84,000 communist soldiers of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam launched coordinated attacks against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States, and their allies / This, the largest battle of the Vietnam War, became known as the Tet Offensive

James Phillips joined the U. S. Army Reserve in 1980 and retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class in 2007

Base Assignments:

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Established in 1917 and named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Lewis was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States / Ft. Lewis was the home to the 4th Infantry Division until their departure for Vietnam in 1966, leaving the fort as a personnel transfer and training center / Fort Lewis was deactivated in 1991.

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



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with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Ft. Knox, Kentucky - Named after Henry Knox, the Continental Army's chief of artillery during the Revolutionary War and the country's first Secretary of War, Ft. Knox is located south of Louisville / Ft. Knox holds the Army human resources Center of Excellence (includes the Army Human Resources Command, United States Army Cadet Command and the United States Army Accessions Command / For 60 years, Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and the U.S. Army Armor School (moved to Fort Benning), and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the M1 Abrams main battle tank

Ft. Devens, Massachusetts - Located in the counties of Middlesex and Worcester, the fort was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / The 2nd Infantry Brigade was inactivated on 19 February 1963 at Fort Devens; in 1962 when it was reflagged as 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. It was reactivated on 23 October 1963 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and moved (with the rest of the Division) to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 1964 / Fort Devens was also the home of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1968 until the Group's move to Fort Carson, Colorado in 1995 / It was also the home of the 39th Engineer Battalion (CBT) until the 39th was deactivated in 1992 / Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

Ft. Lee, Virginia - Opened in 1918, the fort is named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee / Fort Lee was the headquarters for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM)/ Sustainment Center of Excellence (SCoE), the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, the U.S. Army Ordnance School, The U.S. Army Transportation School, the Army Logistics University (ALU), Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), and the U.S. Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA)

Nike Base (CD27), Wilmington, Ohio - Located between Dayton and Cincinnati, the site became operational in 1960 to defend the industrial centers of the upper Ohio River Valley / Nike, named for the mythical Greek goddess of victory, was the name given to a program that deployed a guided surface-to-air missile defense system / The base was closed in 1970 with the termination of the Nike Missile System

Camp Radcliff, South Vietnam - Camp Radcliff (also known as An Khê Army Airfield, An Khê Base or the Golfcourse) is a former U.S. Army base in the An Khê District in central Vietnam / Camp Radcliff was established in late August 1965 by the 70th Engineer Battalion as the base camp for the 1st Cavalry Division / The camp was named after Cavalry Major Donald Radcliff, the 1st Cavalry's first combat death, who was killed on 18 August 1965 while supporting U.S. Marines in his helicopter gunship during Operation Starlite

Miscellaneous:

James Phillips graduated from West Seneca West High School in 1966 / After graduation, James worked at Costas Pizza Lounge as a pizza maker until he received his draft notification papers / James served in the Army from 1966 through 1970 / After his Honorable Discharge, James Phillips became a press operator for the F. N. Burt Company until 1983 / Between 1983 and 2008, James Phillips worked at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Wende Correctional Facility



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The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / The division was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, and in the War in Afghanistan / When the 1st Cavalry Division was deployed in the Vietnam War, the division become an air assault division as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commonly referred to as the 1st Air Cavalry Division / The use of helicopters on such large scale as troop carriers, cargo lift ships, medevacs, and as aerial rocket artillery, was never before implemented, but by doing so it freed the infantry from the tyranny of terrain to attack the enemy at the time and place of its choosing / Deployed to Camp Radcliff, An Khe, Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was equipped with the new M16 rifle, the UH-1 troop carrier helicopter, UH-1-C gunships, the CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter, and the massive CH-54 Skycrane cargo helicopter / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POLCHLOPEK**
JOSEPH

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Joseph Polchlopek honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POLLILA**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

C.

Address: INDIAN CHURCH ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

1967 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

MARKMANSHIP BADGE

MARKMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant John C. Polilla honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT John Polilla was deployed to Vietnam / SGT John Polilla saw temporary duty assignments in Korea, Taiwan, Wake Island, Guam, and Okinawa / Sergeant John C. Polilla was also assigned to the USAF Security Service where he served as a security courier

Base Assignments:

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 June 1941, and it was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Sheppard AFB, Texas - The base, located near Wichita Falls, was is named in honor of Senator John Morris Sheppard of Texas (1875–1941), chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee from 1933 until his death on 9 April 1941. Senator Sheppard helped lead the fight for military preparedness before the attack on Pearl Harbor / It was officially opened as a United States Army Air Corps training center on 17 October 1941, following the arrival of the first military members on 14 June. As the Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces, facilities were completed sufficiently to allow the first class of 22 aviation mechanics to enter training that October; the class graduated 23 February 1942 / Sheppard Field reached its peak strength of 46,340 people while serving as a separation center for troops being discharged following World War II from September through November 1945 /



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Communications, refrigeration, air conditioning, and power production operator and repairman training were transferred to Sheppard in 1959

Camp Drake, Asaka City, Saitama, Japan - Located northwest of Tokyo, Camp Drake was one of many former American bases around Tokyo / Originally a golf club, it became the site of an army uniform factory during World War II, and was subsequently used as a training camp by the US army / During the Vietnam War, Camp Drake served as a joint US Army/Air Force base, active until the 1970's / Camp Drake contained the 249th General Hospital, which handled troops coming out of Vietnam and also housed the communication center for Far East military operations

Miscellaneous:

John C. Polilla graduated from Bishop Timon High School / Polilla attended Erie Community College before entering military service / After his Honorable Discharge from the Air Force, John Polilla found employment with the Bethlehem Steel Corp until the giant steelmaker finally shut down / John Polilla went to work for the Erie County Highway Department, retiring after 35 years of service

A temporary duty assignment (TDY) refers to a United States military personnel travel assignment at a location other than the personnel's permanent duty station / This type of secondary assignment is usually of relatively short duration, typically from two days to 179 days in length

The 1967 Communications Squadron was activated on 1 July 1961 to perform communications functions in Vietnam and inactivated on 31 July 1974 / The 1967 Comm Squadron was absorbed by the 1956 Communications Group

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces



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Name: **POYDOCK, JR.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

CARL

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CALVARY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART (2)

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Carl Jerome Poydock, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Carl Poydock was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded two Purple Heart Medals for wounds suffered in combat action

On 15 March 1967, Sergeant Carl Poydock's unit was attacked in Vietnam and SGT Poydock was shot in the left leg and spent three months recovering at a military hospital in Japan / SGT Carl Poydock was wounded a second time on 12 November 1967, while providing security in the rear of a resupply truck, when an enemy attack left Sgt. Poydock with several shrapnel wounds

On 21 May 2012, Carl J. Poydock, Jr. received his second Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Town of West Seneca's Walkway of Freedom in Veterans Memorial Park

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Carl Poydock was a 1961 graduate of West Seneca High School and drafted into the U.S. Army on 4 July 1966 / Carl Jerome Poydock, Jr. passed away on 27 August 2022 at the age of 79 years old

The 5th Cavalry Regiment ("Black Knights") is a historical unit of the United States Army that began its service on 3 August 1861, when an act of Congress enacted "that the two regiments of dragoons, the regiment of mounted



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riflemen, and the two regiments of cavalry shall hereafter be known and recognized, as the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth regiments of cavalry respectively and continues in modified organizational format in the U.S. Army / On 3 March 1855, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (later to be known as the 5th Cavalry Regiment) was activated in Louisville, Kentucky with troopers drawn from the states of Alabama, Maryland, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia / On 9 April 1865, the 5th Cavalry was selected to serve as the Union Honor Guard for the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse / During World War II, the 5th Cavalry fought in the battles of Los Negros, Leyte, and Luzon / After the surrender of Japanese forces, the 5th Cavalry was part of the occupation forces / The 5th Cavalry Regiment saw action in Korea during the Korean War and left the country on 7 December 1951 after 549 days of constant combat / During the Vietnam War, the 5th Cavalry Regiment was deployed to Vietnam in September 1965 / In Vietnam, 5th Cavalry units participated in twelve campaigns, including Operation Thayer, Operation Pershing, Operation Tet Offensive, Operation Jeb Stuart III, Operation Toan Thang II and Operation Cheyenne Sabre / Six 5th Cavalry Regiment Troopers received the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War / The remaining units of the 5th Cavalry regiment left Vietnam in January 1973

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by



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President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Name: **RATAJCZAK**
FLORIAN **M.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: FISHER ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Florian M. Ratajczak honorably served in the United States Army / Florian Ratajczak was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Florian M. Ratajczak passed away on 6 February 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



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Name: **RAUSCH**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

E.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MAJOR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

12TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, 460TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING, 7TH AIR FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Major Robert E. Rausch honorably served in the United States Air Force / Major Robert Rausch was a Pilot and Navigator and was Killed in Action on 16 April 1970 over Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 16 April 1970, an RF-4C Phantom with a two man crew of Major Ayers and Captain Robert E. Rausch departed Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon to conduct reconnaissance along the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Vietnam as well as the adjacent area of Savannakhet Province, Laos / They refueled in flight and advised their controller that they were heading north to another target area / The new target area was known to be a high threat area with 37mm and other anti-aircraft weapons / They were last reported over Savannakhet Province but did not return from their mission and were declared missing in action / During the period he was reported missing, Robert E. Rausch was promoted to the rank of Major

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Major Robert E. Rausch was 35 years of age at the time of his death

In the first four full months of operation in Southeast Asia, crews of the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flew 2,014 combat sorties against pinpoint, strip, and area cover targets in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and



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Laos. Approximately two-thirds of these were flown at night / Continuous information on enemy supply movements, troop concentrations, and fortifications was obtained from aerial photography taken by the 12th / In addition, photography taken by the unit was used in bomb damage assessment, base defense planning, and enemy air defense site detection / The 12th flew more than 26,000 combat sorties and 53,000 hours over a 5-year period. This was more than in both World Wars and Korea combined

The Phantom, used by Air Force, Marine and Navy air wings, served a multitude of functions including fighter-bomber and interceptor, photo and electronic surveillance. The two man aircraft was extremely fast (Mach 2), and had a long range (900 - 2300 miles, depending on stores and mission type). The F4 was also extremely maneuverable and handled well at low and high altitudes. Most pilots considered it one of the "hottest" planes around

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The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has



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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **RIEDY**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PETER

B.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

44TH ARTILLERY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAMESE GALLANTRY CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (SP-4) Peter B. Riedy honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Peter Reidy was deployed to Khe Sanh, Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat operations / Corporal Riedy was awarded the Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal by the Government of South Vietnam for heroism under combat conditions

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter Riedy worked as a supervisor in the construction industry with Local #210 / Riedy worked on some large projects which included the Buffalo Rapid Transit System, Canisius College athletic field and the Buffalo Bills practice field / Peter Riedy worked in the 1990's for the Buffalo Bills as the Stadium Operations Supervisor / Peter Riedy was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 / After his retirement, Riedy moved to North Carolina and then to Lake Wales, Florida / Peter B. Riedy passed away on 5 February 2023 at the age of 76 years old

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American



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decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level



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Name: **RINE**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ARTHUR

W.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Arthur W. Rine honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Arthur Rine was deployed to Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division / SP-4 Arthur Rine was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered on the battlefield and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic action against enemy forces

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

Cu Chi, South Vietnam-Cambodian Border - Guerrilla troops known as Viet Cong (VC) dug tens of thousands of miles of tunnels, including an extensive network running underneath the Cu Chi district northwest of Saigon /



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Soldiers used these underground routes to house troops, transport communications and supplies, lay booby traps and mount surprise attacks, after which they could disappear underground to safety / To combat these guerrilla tactics, U.S. and South Vietnamese forces trained soldiers known as "tunnel rats" to navigate the tunnels in order to detect booby traps and enemy troop presence / Now part of a Vietnam War memorial park in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), the Cu Chi tunnels have become a popular tourist attraction

Dau Tieng Base Camp (also known as LZ Dau Tieng or Camp Rainier) is a former U.S. Army and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) base in the town of Dau Tieng in Bình Dương Province in southern Vietnam / The base was established in October 1966 and was located in the Dau Tieng District, 60 km northwest of Tan Son Nhut Air Base (outside of Saigon) / It was a base camp and stopping off point for many Infantry units, such as the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, who made their command and control headquarters there / On 24 June 1967 a Vietcong (VC) mortar attack on Camp Rainier (Dau Tieng) disabled 29 UH-1 helicopters of the 188th Assault Helicopter Company / On 4 July 1968 the base was subjected to a heavy People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) rocket and mortar attack followed by probes on the base perimeter resulting in 5 U.S. and 16 PAVN killed / On 23 February 1969 the base was attacked and overrun by PAVN sappers / SSGT Robert W. Hartsock would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack as 21 U.S. and 73 PAVN were killed in the attack / Currently, part of the base appears to remain in use by the PAVN / The airfield is no longer used but remains visible on satellite images

Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, 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 divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:

Arthur Rine graduated from West Seneca Senior High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Arthur Rine worked for 32 years at National Fuel Gas

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducted military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / After undergoing major reorganizations in 1957 and 1963 to adapt to changing tactics, the division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War



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in Afghanistan / Its present deployment is composed of light infantry and aviation units / Tropic Lightning soldiers regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROLLS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL

P.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Michael P. Rolls honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Michael Rolls was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROOF**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DONALD

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-5

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Donald F. Roof honorably served in the United States Army / SP-5 Donald Roof was deployed to Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into hostile areas with a U.S. Department of Defense mandate to be "on-call to fight anytime, anywhere" at "the knife's edge of technology and readiness / Primarily based at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / In April 1965, the "All-Americans" invaded the Dominican Republic / Spearheaded by the 3rd Brigade, the 82nd deployed in Operation Power Pack / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Hue – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months



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Name: **ROZELL**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

EDWARD

A.

Address: 79 FLOHR AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

A COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Edward Arnold Rozell honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Edward Rozell was deployed to Vietnam on 30 September 1969 as a Rifleman / LCPL Edward Rozell was Killed in Action on 31 January 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during a battle with Viet Cong forces near Da Nang, in the province of Quang Nam, South Vietnam

LCPL Edward Arnold Rozell served with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force / Alpha Company was on a combat mission 6 kilometers south southeast of the Tuy Loan Bridge when the company encountered NVA hostile forces / Edward died as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds to the body when an enemy mine detonated near the Tuy Loan Bridge

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.



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Miscellaneous:

Edward Rozell attended West Seneca High School prior to enlisting in the Marine Corp in January 1969 / Edward Arnold Rozell was 18 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at St Mathews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Edward Arnold Rozell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 87

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / They returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command / It consisted of both the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) / By the end of 1966, the two Marine divisions of III MAF were fighting two separate wars. In the north, the 3d Marine Division fought a more or less conventional campaign while the 1st Marine Division took over the counter-guerrilla operations in the populous south / the III Marine Amphibious Forces participated in the Vietnam War from May 1965 through April 1971 operating from Quang Tri, Thua



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Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: RUDNICKI

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PAUL

E.

Address: RESERVE ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CAPTAIN

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM (USARV)

56TH ARMY POSTAL UNIT (APU)

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Captain Paul E. Rudnicki honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Paul Rudnicki was assigned to many Army bases, serving as a Military Judge / Rudnicki served in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1968 to 1972 / While stationed in Long Binh Post, Vietnam, Captain Rudnicki served as Post Judge Advocate from 1969 to 1970 / Captain Rudnicki was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Long Binh Post, Vietnam - Long Binh Post is a former U.S. Army base located in Long Binh ward between Biên Hòa and Saigon, Vietnam / The base functioned as a U.S. Army base, logistics center, and major command headquarters for United States Army Vietnam (USARV) / By mid-1967, United States Army, Vietnam (USARV), 1st Logistical Command and many other Army units dispersed in Saigon were moved to Long Binh Post to resolve centralization, security, and troop billeting issues / Long Binh Post was a sprawling logistics facility and the largest U.S. Army base in Vietnam, with a peak of 60,000 personnel in 1969 / Long Binh Post was the target of several attacks, especially during the Tet Offensive in 1968 as well as 1969 / Long Binh Post included the Long Binh Stockade, a U.S. Army prison, from 1966 to the 1970s also known unofficially as "LBJ" or "Long Binh Jail"

Miscellaneous:

Prior to military service, Paul E. Rudnicki graduated from the University of Buffalo Law School in 1967 / After his Honorable Discharge, Paul Rudnicki began his post-military career as an attorney / Rudnicki is a lifetime member



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and Judge Advocate of American Legion Post #735 and a member of the Western New York Chapter 77 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, serving as President of the VALOR Committee / Paul Rudnicki is also a Rotarian

Judge advocates are attorneys who perform legal duties while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces / They provide legal services to their branch of the armed forces and Legal Representation to members of the Armed Services / The duties of a Judge Advocate also focus on the areas of criminal law, legal assistance, civil/administrative law, labor/employment law, international/operational law and contract/fiscal law, and medical law

United States Army Republic of Vietnam (USARV) was an corps-level support command of the United States Army in the Vietnam War / USARV was created on 20 July 1965 out of the U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam / USARV controlled the activities of all U.S. Army service and logistical units in South Vietnam until 15 May 1972, when its structure was merged with the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) to become USARV/MACV Support Command, which was disbanded on 28 March 1973 after completion of withdrawal of all combat and support units / USARV controlled ten major support commands in Vietnam, and also supervised 71 smaller units

The 56th Army Postal Unit (APU) received the Meritorious Unit Commendation by distinguishing itself in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 19 March 1968 through 20 May 1969 / The Commendation cites the men and officers who exhibited resourcefulness and organizational expertise in the outstanding performance of difficult tasks inherent in the strategic support of Long Binh Post

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

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The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in



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combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **RYDZA**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PAUL

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

3RD BATTALION, 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

1 ARMY OVERSEAS BAR

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (M-60 MACHINE GUN)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Paul J. Rydza honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Paul Rydza was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months of duty as Light Weapons Infantryman / The last deployment for SGT Rydza was with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team at Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Sergeant Paul Rydza was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 21 May 1969

Base Assignments:

Fort Jackson , South Carolina - Fort Jackson is a United States Army installation, which the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) operates for Basic Combat Training (BCT), and is located within the city of Columbia, South Carolina / Fort Jackson was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army general and the seventh president of the United States (1829–1837) who was born in the border region of North and South Carolina / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

Miscellaneous:

Paul J. Rydza passed away on 12 January 2023 at the age of 75 years old in North Carolina



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Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (aka, "Devil Brigade") is a maneuver brigade combat team (BCT) in the United States Army / It is the oldest permanent brigade in the Army and has some of the oldest units in the United States Army / Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 1st Brigade served in World War I, Vietnam, Desert Shield and Desert Storm / Its most notable campaigns include the Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Picardy, Tet Counteroffensive and the Liberation and Defense of Kuwait / Since Desert Storm, the "Devil Brigade" has deployed to Bosnia, Kuwait, and to Korea to participate in a 2nd Infantry Division exercise

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps



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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAFAROWICZ
MICHAEL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Michael Safarowicz honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SARGIS**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GEORGE

R.

Address: 85 FRENCH LEA ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

23RD INFANTRY DIVISION - AMERICAL

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth Class George "Bob" Sargis honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 George Sargis was assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) and stationed at the U. S. Army base at Chu Lai, Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort 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)

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located approximately 56 miles southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a U.S. military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Originally established by the Marines, the base was handed over to the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in April 1967 and subsequently became the headquarters and base area for the 23rd Americal Division from September 1967 until November 1971

Miscellaneous:

After an Honorable Discharge, George Sargis became the Assistant Manager at the AM&A's Shoe Department at the Thruway Plaza, later moving up to Department Manager

The 23rd Infantry Division, more commonly known as the Americal Division, of the United States Army was



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activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II (a distinction it would repeat when reformed during the Vietnam War) / At the suggestion of a subordinate, the division's commander, Major General Alexander Patch, requested that the new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" - This was unusual, as most U. S. divisions are known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division / The Americal was reactivated 25 September 1967 at Chu Lai in Vietnam from a combination of units already in Vietnam and newly arrived units / The Americal Division never lost a major battle in Vietnam, accounting for thousands of enemy dead and wounded, and is noted for its exemplary performance during the Tet Offensive, The Battle of LoGiang, the Battle of Nui Hoac Ridge (Hill 352) and throughout its approximate 6 year deployment in Vietnam / Americal casualties in Vietnam numbered 4,041 during 2,111 days of combat / The division was inactivated following its withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971

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The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a special type of recognition for service members / The Army Commendation Medal is considered a "mid-level" military decoration / The commendation is generally awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / It's usually granted to U.S. Army personnel that are not general officers / All in all, there are Commendation Medals for each service branch (Army, Naval Service, Air and Space Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard)

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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The NYS Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHLMAN**
WAYNE

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

"B" BATTERY, 6TH BATTALION FIELD ARTILLERY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant (E-5) Wayne Fred Schlman honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Wayne Schlman was assigned as a Field Artillery Crewman

Wayne F. Schlman was inducted into the U.S. Army on 6 January 1966 and was Honorably Discharged on 21 December 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne F. Schlman was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The Field Artillery is one of the Army's combat arms, traditionally one of the three major branches (with Infantry and Armor) / It refers to those units that use artillery weapons systems to deliver surface-to-surface long range indirect fire / Indirect fire means that the projectile does not follow the line of sight to the target

The 6th Battalion was a field artillery battalion of the United States Army / The 6th Battalion Field Artillery participated in the Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase 11, 111, IV, V, VI and the Tet 69/Counteroffensive / The battalion was inactivated 16 January 1988

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all



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members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHMIDT**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL

E.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (KOREA)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (HAND GRENADE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Michael Edward Schmidt honorably served in the United States Army / Michael Schmidt was deployed to South Korea for 13 months as an Armorer/Supply Specialist

Michael Schmidt was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 12 April 1973 with reserve obligation ending 26 January 1976

Base Assignments:

Fort Eustis, Newport News, Virginia - is a United States Army installation in Newport News, Virginia / Camp Abraham Eustis was established in 1918 as a coast artillery replacement center and is named for Brevet Brigadier General Abraham Eustis, a 19th-century U.S. military leader who had been the first commanding officer of Fort Monroe, a defensive fortification at the mouth of Hampton Roads / The post is the home to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, the 7th Transportation Brigade, and Joint Task Force - Civil Support / In 2010, Fort Eustis was merged with nearby Langley Air Force Base as Joint Base Langley-Eustis

Miscellaneous:

Michael Schmidt worked and retired as a Pipefitter at Local Union 4, Buffalo, New York / Michael Schmidt was a member of the Patriotic Guard Rider for over 10 years / Michael Edward Schmidt passed away on 5 March 2025

The Armorer Unit Supply Specialist, is a vital component of the US Army / They play an important role in maintaining weapons, ensuring they are in good working condition, and ready to be used at all times / The



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Armorer Specialist is responsible for inspecting and repairing firearms, from handguns to heavy machine guns

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces, which was first created in 1961 by Executive Order of President John Kennedy / The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after July 1, 1958, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHULTE**
RONALD **R.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Ronald R. Schulte honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Schulte graduated from Seneca Vocational High School in June 1955 and attended the Advanced Training Center - Welding School in 1980 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Schulte worked as a Millwright for Bethlehem Steel, Inc. in Lackawanna, New York from 1963 -1980 / Ronald Schulte joined Frontier Foundries Inc. in Niagara Falls, NY, from 1980 to 1984, before spending over three decades at Spaulding Composites Inc. in Tonawanda, New York, from 1984 until his retirement, where his responsibilities at these firms included repair work, machinery installation, and maintenance that utilized a vast array of tools and techniques / Schulte was a Group Leader of the Quality Improvement Team and was an instrumental member of maintenance-focused committees / Ronald R. Schulte passed away on 6 March 2026 at the age of 87 years old



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Name: **SEMLITSCH**
RAYMOND D.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: SGT

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Raymond D. Semlitsch honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Semlitsch graduated from West Seneca High School in 1968 / Semlitsch graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from SUNY College at Buffalo in 1975, a Master's Degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland in 1979 and a Doctorate in zoology from the University of Georgia in 1984 / Before joining the faculty at the University of Missouri in the Division of Biological Sciences in 1993, Dr. Raymond Semlitsch held positions at Memphis State University and the University of Zurich, Switzerland / Dr. Semlitsch was awarded the University of Missouri's 1999 Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity, the 2008 National Wetlands Award for Science Research from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the 2011 Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists / In 2009, Dr. Semlitsch was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science / Raymond Donald Semlitsch passed away on 10 Jun 2015 at the age of 64 years old



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Name: **SOBCZYNSKI**
GERALD

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gerald Sobczynski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Sobczynski was a member of IBEW Local #41 / Gerald "Jerry" Sobczynski passed away on 10 March 2024



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Name: **SPRIEGEL**
DENNIS

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Dennis A. Spriegel honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Spriegel graduated from West Seneca Senior High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Spriegel worked for national Fuel Gas Company until his retirement / Dennis A. Spriegel passed away on 3 October 2022 at the age of 75 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STACHURA**
GEORGE

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class George F. Stachura honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 George Stachurai was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STAWARSKI**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

TED

J.

Address: ORCHARD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

1ST ARMORED DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL / 2 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist (E-4) Ted J. Stawarski honorably served in the United States Army / SP Ted Stawarski was deployed to Vietnam during the Tet Offensive and served as a Power Plant Engineer at Camp Holloway in Pleiku from January 1968 through August 1969

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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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

Camp Holloway, Pleiku, Vietnam - Camp Holloway was a United States Army helicopter base at Pleiku in the Central Highlands of Vietnam from 1962 through the early 1970s / The camp was named in 1963 for CH-21 helicopter pilot Warrant Officer Charles E. Holloway, who in December 1962, became the first aviator assigned to the 81st Transportation Company to be killed in action / At its peak, Camp Holloway was home to two additional UH-1 "Huey" assault helicopter companies, a CH-47 "Chinook" company, an O-1 Bird Dog reconnaissance airplane company, a CH-54 "Skycrane" company, and other supporting units

Miscellaneous:

Prior to his enlistment in the Army, Ted Stawarski graduated from Hutchinson Central Technical High School, (informally known as Hutch-Tech) in Buffalo / Following an Honorable Discharge from the Army, Stawarski was employed by Buffalo Forge Company

The Tet Offensive was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched on 30 January 1968, by forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States Armed Forces, and their allies / It was a campaign of surprise attacks against military and civilian command and control centers throughout South Vietnam / Though initial attacks stunned both the US and South Vietnamese armies, causing them to temporarily lose control of several cities, they quickly regrouped, beat back the attacks, and inflicted heavy casualties on North Vietnamese forces / The name of the offensive comes from the Tết holiday, the Vietnamese New Year, when the first major attacks took place

The 1st Armored Division, nicknamed "Old Ironsides", is a combined arms division of the United States Army / The division is part of III Armored Corps and operates out of Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas / It was the first armored division of the United States Army to see battle in World War II / Since World War II, the division has been involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Persian Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and several other operations / The division has also received numerous awards and recognition

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



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West Seneca

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEPHEN**
CHARLES

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

W.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Charles W. Stephen honorably served in the United States Air Force / Charles Stephen was a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles W. Stephan was born in Buffalo and attended Alden High School / After his military enlistment was completed, Stephan returned to Moog Inc. in East Aurora as an Apprentice Machinist / After his advancement to a Tool and Die Machinist, Stephen retired in 2007 as a Supervisor / Stephen was an avid train collector and enthusiastic outdoorsman / Both Stephen and his wife of 35 years, Mary Kathleen Horn, raised three children, one daughter and two sons / Charles W. Stephen passed away on 3 November 2016



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STERLACE**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert A. Sterlace honorably served in the United States Military and was deployed to Vietnam (NO OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Name: **STRESING**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

L.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John L. Stresing honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Stresing was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Stresing was a retired steel mill worker

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The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has



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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Name: **SULLIVAN**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL J.

Address: 79 FREMONT AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

67TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL (SMBL)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (E-4) Michael Joseph Sullivan honorably served in the United States Army as an Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Joseph Sullivan was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

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An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WAGNER**
DAVID

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

A.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

592ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 24TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David A. Wagner honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Wagner was assigned as a Heavy Vehicle Driver during his 12-month deployment to South Vietnam, attached to the 592nd Transportation Company, 24th Transportation Battalion

Specialist Fourth-Class David Wagner received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 10 September 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David A. Wagner passed away on 30 July 2023

The 24th Transportation Battalion was originally constituted on 1 May 1936 as Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 24th Quartermaster Regiment / Effective 1 August 1946 the Quartermaster Corps transferred the functions and responsibilities of truck and aviation units to the Transportation Corps / On 1 August 1946, while still on inactive status, the 24th Battalion was converted and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 24th Transportation Corps Truck Battalion / The 592nd Transportation Company was deployed to Vung Ro Bay on 20 May 1968 / Its mission was to supervise the terminal service and light truck units engaged in the discharge of deep draft vessels, discharging and loading of shallow draft vessels engaged in inter-coastal shipping and port and beach clearance at Vung Ro Bay



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The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEBSTER**
HOWARD

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

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

Service Notes:

Howard Webster honorably served in the United States Army as a Cook and was deployed to Vietnam

Howard Webster was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Webster attended St. Thomas Aquinas School and graduated from Bishop Timon High School in 1967 / Webster earned an Associates Degree in Food Service from Erie Community College / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Howard Webster worked as a restaurant manager and as a heavy equipment operator on highway and construction projects, including the Eastern Hills Mall / Howard Webster joined the Erie County Sheriff's Department as a Correction Officer in the Erie County Holding Center / Webster was a longtime member of the Police Emerald Society, an organization of law enforcement officers of Irish heritage / Howard Webster retired from the Erie County Sheriff's Department in 2010 / Webster coached youth hockey for many years at Cazenovia Park, where he was inducted onto the Wall of Fame / Webster was a member of the Cazenovia Park Hockey Association Board of Directors / Howard Webster was also a hockey referee for 25 years, officiating almost 1,700 games and was a member of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association Howard "Bud" Webster passed away on 24 September 2024 at the age of 75 years old

Food Service Specialists function in every aspect of food preparation, including administration, procurement, storage, and distribution / They plan menus, purchase supplies, cook food, operate food service equipment, and provide customer service / Food Service Specialist training includes: standard and dietetic menu planning; food preparation and cooking; basic nutrition; storage of meats, poultry, and other perishable items; dining service



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operations; and food and supply ordering

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



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Name: **WEIDNER**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ALBERT

J.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-7

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1983

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "B", 2ND BATTALION, 34TH ARMOR

HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BATTALION, 64TH ARMY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (2)

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/50 DEVICE

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/6 SERVICE STARS

4 OVERSEAS BARS

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class (SFC) Albert Joseph Weidner honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Albert Weidner was deployed to Vietnam and assigned as an Armor Crewman and as an Infantry Sergeant / SFC Weidner was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for bravery under combat conditions

Sergeant First-Class Albert J. Weidner retired from the U.S. Army after 17 years of active duty

Base Assignments:

Fort Carson, Colorado - Fort Carson is a United States Army post located directly south of Colorado Springs in El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, and Huerfano counties, Colorado / Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / The 89th Infantry Division was the first major unit to be activated at Camp Carson / During World War II, over 100,000 soldiers trained at Camp Carson. Along with three other infantry divisions: the 71st Infantry Division, 104th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division / More than 125 units were activated at Camp Carson and more than 100 others were transferred to the mountain post from other installations / Camp Carson was designated Fort Carson in 1954 / In the 1960s, mechanized units were assigned to the fort and it was expanded to the 137,000 acres / Throughout its history Fort Carson has been used for large force-on-force maneuver training / Comprehensive maneuver and live fire training also



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occurs downrange at Fort Carson / Exercises and deployments continually hone the skills of Fort Carson soldiers / In 2003, most Fort Carson units were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom / Troops from the 984th Military Police CO, 759th Military Police Battalion were also sent in support of the guard mission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba

Miscellaneous:

Albert Weidner was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

On 1 October 1963, the 306th Tank Battalion was designated the 2nd Battalion 34th Armor and was officially activated at Fort Irwin, California, as part of the 4th Infantry Division / On 3 August 1966 the battalion was alerted for movement to the Republic of South Vietnam / Arriving at Vung Tau on 10 September 1966 with their M48A3 Patton Tanks, the battalion began conducting limited operations with the 173d Airborne and 1st Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion 34th Armor was known as the "DREADNAUGHTS", meaning they could do the impossible and feared nothing / While under operational control of the 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor was conducting search and destroy operations in the II Field Force Area / In 1967 the Battalion began to participate in larger combined arms operations / Operation Junction City, which began in the early part of March 1967, saw 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor conducting search and destroy operations as part of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force / On 21 March 1967, the battalion distinguished itself in combat near the village of Soui Tre / Fire Support Base Gold, established only two days prior, had come under attack from the 272d Viet Cong Main Force Regiment consisting of over 1100 soldiers / In a four hour battle in which the "Dreadnaughts" helped turn an enemy victory into a defeat, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor received its second Presidential Unit Citation / From 1 August 1967 to 20 August 1967, it earned the Valorous Unit Award for being involved in fierce fighting against well-fortified and prepared Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regulars in the Quang Ngai Province

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level

The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service

A Unit Citation is a formal, honorary mention by high authority of a military unit's specific and outstanding performance, notably in battle / Similar mentions can also be made for individual soldiers / Alternatively or concurrently, the unit can be awarded an honorary title, a mention on the flag or a decoration

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **WEISENBURG**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

LEON

R.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Leon R. Weisenburg honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIDOMSKI**
DANIEL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

A.

Address: 3720 SENECA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

AMERICAL DIVISION, 6TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, HSB

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant (1LT) Daniel A. Widomski honorably served in the United States Army / 1LT Daniel Widomski was deployed to Vietnam on 29 September 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 1LT Daniel Widomski was Killed In Action on 26 February 1969 from wounds received during enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 26 February 1969, during a combat operation 1LT Widomski was assigned as the Artillery Forward Observer with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry when elements of the unit became engaged with the enemy 10 kilometers southwest of the Quang Ngai airfield / During the fire fight that followed 1LT Daniel Widomski was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

Lt. Widomski attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill and began his tour of duty in South Vietnam in August 1968 where he was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

Base Assignments:

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars / Ft. Sill serves as the home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Fires Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / In 1963 the 1st Aerial Artillery Group (Provisional) was



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organized to test equipping CH-34 helicopters with rocket pods attached to each side. The rockets converted a transport aircraft, an easy target in most combat situations, into a sophisticated flying weapon capable of direct or indirect fires. It was the ancestor to the Cheyenne and Long Bow attack helicopters of today

Miscellaneous:

Daniel A. Widomski was a graduate of St. Stanislaus Parochial School in 1959 , Bishop Ryan High School and the State University at Buffalo / Widomski enlisted in the Army in August 1966 / Daniel A. Widomski was 22 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel A. Widomski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 75

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The Field Artillery Unit Commander is a position in the U.S. Army that plans, coordinates, and directs field artillery activities / The Field Artillery branch traces its origins to 1775 when the Continental Congress elected Henry Knox as "Colonel of the Regiment of Artillery" / The Field Artillery officers serve in various Army formations and have diverse assignment opportunities

The Americal Division was an infantry division of the United States Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The division was activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia / In the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, the United States had hurriedly sent a task force to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II / The new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" / This was unusual, as with the exception of the Philippine Division, all other U.S. divisions were known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division, but was rarely referred to as such, even on official orders / During the Vietnam War the division had a mixed record / It combined participation in numerous battles and campaigns / The division suffered a tactical defeat in the early morning of 28 March 1971, when Vietcong sapper commandos successfully infiltrated FSB Mary Ann / The attack destroyed key infrastructure, as well as killing 33 and wounding 83 Americans / The division was deactivated following its withdrawal from South Vietnam in November 1971

The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery was originally organized on 1 June 1917 in the Regular Army at Douglas, Arizona as Battery F, 11th Field Artillery, later reassigned to the 6th Division / The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on 19 December 1967 as a unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade / From the time of arrival in the Republic of Vietnam the men of the "On Time" 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery took part in six major campaigns / The biggest and most successful operation was Vernon Lake II (2 November 1968 through 28 February 1969). The operation was conducted in an area which preliminary intelligence indicated was a massive VC/NVA resupply and consolidation region / Supporting fire from the guns of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery combined with the efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade made Vernon Lake II the most successful operation ever undertaken in the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

11th Brigade area of operation

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILLARD**
ELMER

J.

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Elmer J. Willard honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Elmer J. Willard passed away 10 December 2012 and is interred at the Bath National Cemetery, Bath, New York



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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIND**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MICHAEL H.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MSGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1987

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Michael H. Wind honorably served in the United States Air Force / MSGT Michael Wind was deployed to Vietnam as part of a Medevac Unit / MSGT Michael Wind was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in a combat zone and was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered during combat operations / MSGT Wind retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service

While stationed in Alabama, SSGT Wind earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Troy State University

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Michael Wind worked for Peter J. Schmitt, the Buffalo News, and Tops Markets as a Computer Analyst / After his retirement, Wind moved to The Villages in Florida / Michael H. Wind passed away on 5 July 2025 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously / An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem



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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Air Force Commendation Medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the armed forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force after March 24, 1958, shall have distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service / The degree of merit must be distinctive, though it need not be unique / Acts of courage which do not involve the voluntary risk of life required for the Airman's Medal may be considered for the Air Force Commendation Medal

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West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WITCZAK**
DANIEL

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

S.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Daniel S. Witczak honorably served in the United States Army / Daniel Witczak was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ZECK**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

C.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert C. Zeck honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert C. Zeck passed away on 14 November 2020 at the age of 78 years and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMPFER

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

FRED

C.

Address: 5303 SENECA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

AERO RIFLE PLATOON, F TROOP, 8TH CAVALRY, AMERICAL DIV,

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First Class Fred Charles Zimpfer honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Fred Zimmer was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Fred Zimpfer was Killed in Action on 15 February 1970 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 15 February 1970, an enemy bunker complex was discovered in the Tien Phuoc District of Quang Tin Province at the end of Route 586, some 22 kilometers west of Tam Ky / During the engagement with the enemy, PFC Fred Zimpfer was killed by cross fire by friendly troops during the attack on the fortified positions

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Fred Charles Zimpfer was 26 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Fred Charles Zimpfer is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 17



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The main mission of the Aero Rifle Platoon, a Recon element, was to perform ground reconnaissance of areas that the scout ships cannot check out by air / They were not a main fighting force and only about 32 soldiers are inserted at any one time, although they could handle a small numbers of Viet Cong / Anything of a larger size would have to be dealt with by a regular infantry company which would be brought in by an Assault Helicopter Company / Another function of the Aero Rifle Platoon was to secure any of downed aircraft until it could be extracted

The 8th Cavalry Regiment is a regiment of the United States Army formed in 1866 during the American Indian Wars / The 8th Cavalry continued to serve under a number of designations, fighting in every other major U.S. conflict since, except World War I, when it was not deployed to Europe because it was already engaged in the Punitive Expedition in Mexico from 1916 to 1920 / It is currently a component of the 1st Cavalry Division / The regiment originally was organized as horse cavalry in 1866, a designation under U.S. military doctrine that emphasized both light cavalry and dragoon-type mounted and dismounted fighting roles, until 1942 / It served on foot during World War II and Korea, with some elements converting to airmobile infantry for Vietnam, while others were detached and assigned to West Germany as part of an armored task force to resist any potential Soviet incursion / In 1965, 1st Battalion (ABN), 8th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Vietnam, and participated in numerous campaigns in South Vietnam and Cambodia / The battalion was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, the Valorous Unit Citation, and four soldiers were awarded with the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor

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Town of West Seneca, New York

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ZORNICK, JR.**

Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

HENRY

F.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Henry Francis Zornick, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry Francis Zornick, Jr. passed away on 7 July 2019 and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York