



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAGLER**

**KARL J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1ST LT.

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

1st Lieutenant Karl J. Hagler served as an Administrative Officer at the U.S. Army Security Training Center and School

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Karl Hagler was commissioned through ROTC at Canisius College in 1962

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) are a group of college-based officer training programs for training commissioned officers of the United States Armed Forces / ROTC students attend college like other students, but also receive basic military training and officer training for their chosen branch of service through the ROTC unit at or nearby the college / The students participate in regular drills during the school year, and extended training activities during the summer / The student applicant must agree to accept a commission and serve in the Army on Active Duty or in a Reserve Component (U.S. Army Reserve or Army National Guard)



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**Name:** **HAHN**

**PHILIP N.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** CROFTON DRIVE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS SAM HOUSTON SSBN-609

USS SKIPJACK SSN-585

**Medals / Citations:**

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

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

**Service Notes:**

Philip Hahn earned submarine "dolphins" in recognition of becoming qualified in submarines on the Sam Houston and the Skipjack / While stationed aboard the Sam Houston, Hahn was classified as a Missile Technician 2nd class MT2(SS) and changed rating to Electronic Technician - Navigation 2nd class, ETN2(SS) while serving on the Skipjack / As an Electronic Technician, Hahn was qualified to operate and maintain Naval Nuclear propulsion plants on the Skipjack submarine / Operational areas included North Atlantic Ocean out of Holy Loch, Scotland / Hahn received the "bluenose" designation because of operations north of the Artic Circle; Mediterranean Sea out of Rota, Spain; Caribbean Sea out of Norfolk, Va.

**Base Assignments:**

Norfolk Naval Base, Norfolk, Virginia - Norfolk Naval Base supports naval forces in the United States Fleet Forces Command, operating in the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and the Indian Ocean / In 1917 the Fifth Naval Headquarters was constructed at Norfolk and the Naval Operating Base (NOB) and other facilities were established / On 1 January 1953, the name of the naval base was officially changed to Naval Station Norfolk (NS Norfolk), after being known as the NOB / On 26 January 2017, NS Norfolk celebrated its one hundredth year of service

New London Subarine Base, Groton, Connecticut - Naval Submarine Base New London is the United States Navy's primary East Coast submarine base, also known as the "Home of the Submarine Force" / Located along the Thames River in Groton, two brick buildings and a "T" shaped pier were constructed and officially declared a Navy Yard in 1872 / The Base property expanded during the latter part of World War I and the second largest expansion of Submarine Base New London occurred during World War II, when it grew from 112 acres to 497



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acres / The Submarine Force leaped in size, and the Base accommodated thousands of men to service the growing combat fleet / On 21 January 1954 the first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus, was launched from Groton / Nautilus became the first vessel to transit the North Pole during an historic trip across the Arctic in 1958 / New London is homeport to sixteen attack submarines and neighbor to a major submarine construction yard, General Dynamics' Electric Boat Division

## *Miscellaneous:*

Philip Hahn attended Riverside High School and Bishop Fallon High School prior to enlisting in the Navy / After his Honorable Discharge from military service, Hahn enrolled at the University of Buffalo where he received a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Electrical Engineering / Hahn then received a Master Of Business Administration (MBA) degree from St. Bonaventure University / Philip Hahn was employed by Verizon where he served in Engineering and Management capacities until his retirement in 2003 / Hahn continues to be active in Town of West Seneca community service groups

USS Sam Houston (SSBN-609/SSN-609), an Ethan Allen-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named after Sam Houston (1793–1863), president (1836–1838, 1841–1844) of the Republic of Texas / Sam Houston was the US Navy's seventh ballistic missile submarine / Commissioned on 6 March 1962, the USS Sam Houston completed ten deterrent missions to the Atlantic and Mediterranean by the end of 1964 / Between 1975 and 1979, the Sam Houston operated out of Guam and made mid-patrol stops in South Korea and Hawaii / On 29 April 1988, the USS Sam Houston ran aground on Fox Island, Washington and was decommissioned on 6 September 1991 / The submarine was officially scrapped in February 1992

USS Skipjack (SSN-585), the lead ship of her class of nuclear-powered attack submarine, was the third ship of the United States Navy to be named after the Skipjack tuna and was commissioned on 15 April 1959 / After being launched, the Skipjack was soon dubbed the "world's fastest submarine", after setting the speed record on sea trials in March of the following year / It was designed to have a speed in excess of 20 knots, but its actual speed was a guarded secret / During her shakedown cruise in August 1959, she became the first nuclear ship to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar and operate in the Mediterranean / Following post-shakedown availability at Groton, Connecticut, the nuclear submarine conducted type training and participated in an advanced Atlantic submarine exercise from May through July 1960, which earned the submarine a Navy Unit Commendation, and also a Battle Efficiency "E" award, an award it would receive three more times / During the 1960's and 1970's, the Skipjack conducted exercises in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea / On 19 April 1990, the USS Skipjack was decommissioned and officially scrapped in 1998

The insignia of the U.S. submarine service is a submarine flanked by two dolphins / Dolphins, attendants to the Poseidon, Greek god of the sea and patron deity to sailors, is sometimes referred to as the sailor's friend / They were also chosen to represent the Submarine Service because of the characteristic way in which dolphins dive and surface / Enlisted Sailors and Naval Officers wear a dolphins uniform breast pin to indicate that they are qualified in submarines / Once an enlisted sailor has earned the right to wear the "dolphins", (SS) is added after his rate of rank that stands for "Submarine Specialist"

A "Bluenose" is a sailor who goes through an initiation ceremony that commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the Arctic Circle / Sailors who have gone through the initiation may wear the Blue Nose Submarine Arctic Circle Patch



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**Name:** **HENSON**  
**THOMAS G.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 145 WARREN AVENUE

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

A CO, 2ND BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (USARV)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth Class Thomas G. Henson was Killed in Action on 12 November 1965 during a battle with Viet Cong forces while securing a highway 40 miles north of Saigon, in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

SP4 Henson was an Armor Crewman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Henson attended West Seneca Junior High School and enlisted in the Army in 1962

Specialist Fourth Class Thomas G. Henson was 21 years of age at the time of his death



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**Name:** **HOLODY**

**JAMES E.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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 served as a Radio Operator in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Tây Ninh is a province in the Southeast region of Vietnam on the border with Cambodia. Its capital is the town of Tây Ninh

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 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