



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JOHNSON

GERALD D.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 245 NORTHWOOD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS HANCOCK (CVA-19)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Seaman Gerald Johnson was part of the Deck Force, handling the ship lines, on the USS Hancock / Johnson also worked onboard in the mail room and as a ship's cook

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 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 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



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was the first US Navy carrier to have steam catapults installed / The USS Hancock was decommissioned in 1976 and sold for scrap