



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** JANAK

MICHAEL R.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, 199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE  
 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE  
 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION (AMERICAL)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 STARS  
 COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE  
 VIETNAMESE GALLANTRY CROSS  
 NATIONAL DEFENSE RIBBON

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
 BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE  
 ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/CLUSTER

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael "Doc" Janak

**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)

Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas - Fort Sam Houston is a U.S. Army post known as "Fort Sam," it is named for the U.S. Senator from Texas, U.S. Representative from Tennessee, Tennessee and Texas Governor, and first President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston / The installation's missions include serving as the command headquarters for the United States Army North (formerly the Fifth United States Army), United States Army South, the Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) headquarters, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Center and School, the Fifth Recruiting Brigade, Navy Regional Recruiting, the San Antonio Military Entrance and Processing Station, and the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC)



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Long Binh, Vietnam - Long Binh Post was located on the east of Dong Nai river, northeast from Saigon (now called Ho Chi Minh City) / The base functioned as a U.S. Army base, logistics center, and major command headquarters for United States Army Vietnam (USARV) / Long Binh Post was southeast from Bien Hoa Air Base / Long Binh was also unofficially known as "Long Binh Junction, influenced by the widely used initials of then-President Lyndon B. Johnson / 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 / The base was the target of several attacks, especially during Tet in 1968 as well as 1969 / The base and its facilities were handed over to the South Vietnamese army on 11 November 1972

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Chu Lai was a United States Marine Corps military base from 1965 to 1970, and a United States Army military base from 1970 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Roughly 56 miles southeast of Da Nang, the base had an airfield to supplement the major base at Da Nang / It was not named for any local geographic feature, but rather was the Chinese name of Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific / Chu Lai Base became operational on 1 June 1965 and remained in use by Marine aviation units until September 1970

## *Miscellaneous:*

The 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921–1940 and in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in 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, where it was inactivated / 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 and the Bien Hoa Air Base 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 Combat Medical Badge (CMB) is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945. Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB. According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy; strict adherence to this requirement and its interpretation (e.g., distant mortar rounds vs. direct small arms fire) will vary by unit

The Bronze Star Medal is a United States decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / Whenever 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 Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of



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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



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**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

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MERITORIOUS 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