



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KANDEFER**

STANLEY J.

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:

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Stanley J. Kandefer taught specialized training to Army personnel while stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Sergeant Kandefer 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 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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KARN**

WAYNE D.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 22 LARKWOOD ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Wayne D. Karn was Killed in Action on 20 June 1967 from small arms fire during hostile action in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

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

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



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various training commands

Miscellaneous:

Wayne Karn graduated from West Seneca Central High School in 1964 / Karn was a dental technician while employed at Agthe Dental Laboratory / Prior to being drafted into the Marine Corps on 22 March 1966, Karn was a truck driver for Fisher-Price Toys



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KASPEREK**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

GERALD R.

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

152ND INFANTRY REGIMENT
198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

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

Service Notes:

During the years of 1967–1971 as part of the Vietnam War the 198th Infantry Brigade was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division

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. Ord, California - Located near Monterey Bay on an old artillery range, Ft. Ord was constructed in 1940 / Ft. Ord was named in honor of Union Army Maj. Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, (1818-1883) a famous and well respected Federal military leader during the American Civil War who also served in the Second Seminole War in Florida and the western Indian Wars / During the Vietnam War conflict it became the major training center in the nation / In 1964 a Drill Sergeant School was opened / It once again was home to basic combat, advanced infantry, and basic unit training for over half a million soldiers / It was the highest overall training of combat ready troops in the fort's history / In 1973 the last American troops departed Vietnam / The total number of soldiers trained at Fort Ord from 1940 to 1975 is estimated at 1.5 million / In 1994, Fort Ord was officially closed



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a United States Marine Corps military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Chu Lai Air Base became operational on 1 June 1965 and remained in use by Marine aviation units until September 1970 / The Seabees of MCB-10 built the helicopter pad, and the Marines also established combat base and helicopter facility on the Kỳ Hà peninsula north of the air base / On the morning of 31 January 1968 as part of the Tet Offensive, the Viet Cong attacked the base with rockets and mortars triggering an explosion in the bomb dump. MAGs 12 and 13 suffered three aircraft destroyed and 23 damaged / The Marine 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

Camp Casey, Korea - Camp Casey is a 3,500 acre U.S. military base in Dongducheon, South Korea / The camp was named in 1952 after Major Hugh Boyd Casey, who was killed in an plane crash near Camp Casey during the Korean War / Camp Casey is one of several U.S. Army bases in South Korea near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Kasperek was employed at the Red Barn Restaurant and the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / Gerald joined the United States Postal Service where he was employed for 38 years / Gerald and his family moved to West Seneca in 1981



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Name: **KELLY**

BRIAN F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 1751 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

KOREAN MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP (KMAG)

NIKE ARTILLERY BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

SP-4 Brian F. Kelly was attached to the Korean Military Advisory group (KMAG) near Busan, Korea / Kelly spent 13 months in Korea as a Classified Document Specialist and Ration Card Administrator

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)

Selfridge Air Force Base, Lake St. Clair, Michigan - Originally named Selfridge Army Air Base, it was created in 1917 and was named after Army 1st Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge who was killed while flying on a demonstration flight with Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1908, the first military casualty of flight / In 1947 the Selfridge Army Air Base was renamed Selfridge Air Force Base / During the Cold War era, Nike missiles were stationed at the base to guard the industrial might of the Detroit region

Miscellaneous:

Brian Kelly attended Orchard Park High School, graduating in 1958 / Kelly attended the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1958 through 1963 prior to military service / Before entering the Army, Brian Kelly went to work for the Chevrolet Tonawanda Foundry in 1961 and returned to the Foundry after his discharge, employed as a Clerk, Safety Inspector and Safety Engineer / Kelly became a Safety Manager at Dunlop Tire Corp in 1982



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Town of West Seneca, New York

and remained there until 1991 / Kelly went to work as a Safety Engineer for the West Valley Nuclear Service from 1991 until his retirement in 2002

The Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) (officially United States Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea) was a United States military unit of the Korean War / Following the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet union split up the administration of Korea, with the United States taking charge of the southern half / Beginning in January 1946, the U.S. military government in the south began to form a Korean defense force and helped to train and provide logistic support for the Republic of Korea Army



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Name: **KRONTHALER**

PAUL J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

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 CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY 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:

Private First Class Paul J. Kronthaler was Killed in Action on 6 May 1969 from bullet wounds sustained from enemy gunfire / His division, the First Cavalry Division, was involved in a battle with Viet Cong troops near the Vietnam - Cambodia border in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam / PFC Kronthaler, a radioman, had only been in Vietnam for 5 weeks.

PFC Kronthaler was an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman

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 earlier in 1968, prior to joining the Army in October 1968

Private First Class Paul J. Kronthaler was 22 years of age at the time of his death

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



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casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action