



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HAAS, JR.

WILLIAM L.

**Hometown:** EAST AMHERST

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William L. "Bill" Haas, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / William Haas volunteered at the Coast Guard Auxiliary

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Haas retired from Verizon Communications after more then 35 years / Haas was a volunteer with Mission Nicaragua / William L. "Bill" Haas, Jr. passed away on 15 February 2025 at the age of 89 years old

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) is the uniformed, non-military volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard / Established by an Act of Congress in 1939, it comprises over 26,000 members who volunteer their time to support Coast Guard operations, promote boating safety, and enhance the safety and security of US ports, waterways, and coastal regions



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HACKEMER**  
**EUGENE**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

Eugene Hackemer honorably served in the United States Military / Eugene Hackemer was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



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**Name:** HACKFORD

ALLEN L.

**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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**Name:** **HAFFNER**

**CHARLES**

**G.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1960

**Unit / Squadron:**

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 225 (VIKING MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON)

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Charles G. Haffner honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Charles Haffner was classified as a Jet Engine Mechanic with the Viking Marine Attack Squadron at Cherry Point, North Carolina

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina - MCAS Cherry Point is a United States Marine Corps airfield located in Havelock, North Carolina, in the eastern part of the state / Cherry Point was built in 1941, and was commissioned in 1942 and is currently home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing / Cherry Point's primary World War II mission was to train units and individual Marines for service to the Pacific theater / The air station also served as a base for anti-submarine operations, with an Army Air Corps (22d Antisubmarine Squadron) and later a Navy squadron each being responsible for the sinking of a German U-boat just off the North Carolina coast during 1943 / Cherry Point's contribution to the Korean War effort was to provide a steady stream of trained aviators and air crewmen as well as maintenance and support personnel as replacements to forward deployed aviation units / During the Vietnam War, Cherry Point deployed three A-6 Intruder squadrons to the Far East and again provided a constant source of replacements for aircrews and enlisted aviation personnel / The air station and its associated support locations occupy more than 29,000 acres / Its runway system is large enough that the air station served as an alternate emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle launches out of Cape Canaveral, Florida

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Hafner was a first responder with the Big Tree Fire Dept in Hamburg, New York / Charles G. Haffner passed away on 20 January 2024, at the age of 84 years old and interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 225 (VMFA-225) is a United States Marine Corps fighter attack squadron flying the F-35B Lightning II / The squadron, known as the "Vikings", is based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 13 (MAG-13) and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) / Marine Fighting Squadron 225 (VMF-225) was commissioned 1 January 1943, at Marine Corps Air Station Mojave, California / From August 1944 to January 1945, the F4U Corsairs of VMF-225 participated in numerous combat operations in the New Hebrides Islands / Returning to the United States in February 1945, VMF-225 was eventually stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina / In the early 1960s the squadron had been trained for "special weapons" delivery / This meant they were certified to deliver nuclear weapons / On 1 June 1965, Skyhawks from VMA-225 were the first tactical fixed-wing aircraft to land at Chu Lai Air Base for participation in combat operations against Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam / In January 1969, VMA(AW)-225 deployed to Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam / The primary mission of Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 225 was to provide close air support and direct air support for ground elements for allied forces in the I Corp area of South Vietnam / The squadron attacked and destroyed surface targets day and night, and in all weather conditions / During May 1971, VMA(AW)-225 returned to MCAS El Toro, California, and the squadron was deactivated on 15 June 1972 / The squadron was reactivated on 1 July 1991, at MCAS El Toro, California, and redesignated as Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 (VMFA(AW)-225) / VMFA(AW)-225 was the first Marine Corps fighter squadron deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom / The squadron was deployed in January 2003



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**Name:** HAGEN

PATRICK

D.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Patrick D. Hagen honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Patrick Hagen retired from the Buffalo News / Patrick D. Hagen passed away on 25 January 2025 at the age of 80 years old



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**Name:** HAGEN

WILLIAM C.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

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

**Service Notes:**

Army Specialist William Charles "Bill" Hagen honorably served in the United States Army / Army Specialist Hagen was deployed to Vietnam and awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in battle

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Charles "Bill" Hagen passed away on 12 December 2022 at the age of 73 years old

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:** **HAGER**  
**JEROME**

**Hometown:** COLLINS

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Jerome "Jerry" Hager honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jerome Hager graduated from Gowanda High School in 1969 and enlisted in the United States Air Force / After his Honorable Discharge from the service, Hager attended college, eventually working at several nuclear plants in the Northeast as an instrument technician / Before his retirement in 2013, Hager was employed at West Valley Demonstration Project / Jerome "Jerry" Hager passed away at the age of 72 years old on 23 January 2023



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**Name:** **HAGERTY**

**LEO**

**J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "D", 2/327TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Leo Joseph Hagerty honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Leo Hagerty served as President of the Hertel North Park Little League and coached Junior Varsity baseball and football for 11 years at several Buffalo-area high schools / Leo Hagerty retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1998 and moved to Glendale, Arizona / Leo Joseph Hagerty passed away on 29 September 2025 at the age of 76 and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry were deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965, where they were joined by the rest of the division in late 1967 / In October 1968, the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson / The 327th Infantry Regiment has also been deployed in the Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During



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World War II, it gained renown 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 its action during the Battle of the Bulge / The 101st Airborne was allotted to the Regular Army in June 1948 and reactivated as a training unit at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky the following July, only to be inactivated the next year / It was reactivated in 1950 following the outbreak of the Korean War, again to serve as a Training Center at Camp Breckenridge until inactivated in December 1953 / 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 fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / 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 / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed 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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**Name:** **HAGGERTY**

**THOMAS F.**

**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

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



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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: **HAGLER**

**KARL**

**J.**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 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 honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Karl Hagler was assigned 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 / Karl Hagler was a research chemist at the University of Chicago / Hagler operated Park Edge Cleaners in Cheektowaga for 22 years until his retirement / Karl Hagler was a member of the American Chemist Society and a member of American Legion Post 735 / Karl J. Hagler passed away on 17 February 2024 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Mt. Cavalry Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

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:** **HAHIN**

**ROBERT**

**H.**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Robert H. Hahin honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Hahin was a Pistol Director for New York State, avid competition shooter with Allied Sportsman Club and past Knights of Columbus Member / Robert H. Hahin passed away on 26 June 2025 and is interred at Fourteen Holy Helpers Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**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:**

Petty Officer Second-Class Philip Hahn honorably served in the United States Navy / 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 Arctic 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 Submarine 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



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expansion of Submarine Base New London occurred during World War II, when it grew from 112 acres to 497 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

An Electronics Technician, Submarine, Navigation (ETV) is a Navy enlisted Sailor who operates and maintains electronic equipment used for detection, tracking, recognition, and identification of maritime vessels and navigational aids aboard naval submarine vessels / They repair and maintain naval electronics equipment including navigation, radar, and communications equipment

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



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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

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



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Name: **HALL**

**ROBERT**

**W.**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

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:

Service Notes:

Robert W. Hall honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Hall was a member of the Patriots Club of Lackawanna / Robert W. Hall passed away on 2 August 2024 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Name: **HALL**

**TERRENCE E.**

Hometown: KENMORE

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:

Service Notes:

Terrence E. Hall honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Terrence Hall was a counselor with the Erie County Mental Health Group / Terrence E. Hall passed away on 8 February 2021



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**Name:** HALLOWS

DANIEL J.

**Hometown:** HOLLAND

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** WO1

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 162ND AVIATION COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Warrant Officer 1 Daniel John Hallows honorably served in the United States Army WO1 Daniel Hallows was deployed to Vietnam 30 March 1970 as a Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO1 Daniel Hallows was killed (non-hostile action) when his helicopter crashed on 23 June 1970 in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam

On or about 1805 hours on 23 June 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 67-17594) from the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company, 13th Combat Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade, departed Ca Mau Airstrip enroute to Can Tho AAF, RVN / At approximately 1840 hours the aircraft suffered suspected mechanical failure of the main rotor system / The main rotor blades sheared through the cockpit and the mast sheared just below the main rotor head, separating from the aircraft at an approximate altitude of 1500 feet / The aircraft, with the tail rotor still intact and the engine running, began to spin and impacted the ground with vertical and circular momentum / There were no survivors / The crew included WO1 Lawrence M. Moore (aircraft commander), WO1 Daniel J. Hallows (pilot), SP5 Dennis J. Dillon(crew chief), and PFC James W. Lenz (gunner) / Eight passengers also perished in the crash / They included SN Thomas r. Brown, SN John J. Donnelly III, SM3 John S. Durlin, FN Toby A. Thomas, HM2 Harold L. Linville, BM3 James R. Gore, MM2 Richard J. Solano, and an unnamed civilian

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various



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units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

## *Miscellaneous:*

Daniel Hallows was a 1968 graduate of Holland Central High School / Hallows entered the Army's Warrant Officer training program to become a helicopter pilot while still attending high school / Daniel Hallows entered the U.S. Army in 1968 / Daniel John Hallows was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Fort Pierce, Florida

Daniel John Hallows is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C.- Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 83

Helicopter pilots are skilled officers who control and fly the many helicopters operated by the Services / They also perform combat maneuvers, spot and observe enemy positions, transport troops and equipment, and evacuate wounded troops

The 1st Aviation Brigade is an aviation brigade of the United States Army, stationed at Fort Novosel in Alabama / In accordance with The Naming Commission recommendations Fort Rucker was renamed Fort Novosel in early 2023 / The 1st Aviation Brigade traces its origins to the Vietnam War / In April 1965 the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional) was activated with the existing 13th, 14th, 52nd, and 145th Aviation Battalions already in South Vietnam / In August 1965 it became the 12th Aviation Group, which then doubled in size and was used to form the 1st Aviation Brigade in March 1966 / The companies supporting Army of the Republic of Vietnam units were located in centralized positions to best provide support / The brigade assigned one combat aviation battalion headquarters in direct support of each infantry division and this battalion headquarters normally worked with that division no matter how many companies might be assigned for a specific mission / The Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was located in Saigon from May 1966 until August 1967 / The HQ then moved to Long Binh where it remained until Long Binh was closed in the early autumn of 1972 / The HQ then moved to the MACV compound at Tan Son Nhut, where it stayed until withdrawal

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HALT**

**WILLIAM M.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

William M. Halt honorably served in the United States Army / William Halt was deployed to Vietnam and wounded in action, disabling him for life / For wounds suffered in combat action, William Halt was awarded the Purple Heart / Halt was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for heroic service during combat operations

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William M. "Big Willie" Halt passed away on 3 January 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Mr. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

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 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAMILTON**  
**ROGER**

**Hometown:** SOUTH WALES

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Roger Hamilton honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger Hamilton was a New York State Trooper for over 30 years / Roger Hamilton retired to Jupiter, Florida and passed away on 29 January 2025 at the age of 79 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAMMOND**  
**DANIEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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 Hammond honorably served in the United States Military / Daniel Hammond was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAMMOND**

**RICHARD M.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 209 HOYT STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, TROOP A

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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 Richard Mark Hammond honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Hammond was deployed to Vietnam on 16 October 1966 as an Airborne Qualified General Vehicle Repairman / SP4 Richard Hammond was Killed In Action as a result of small arms fire during combat operations on 18 February 1968 in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

In mid-February 1968, Song Be City came under heavy pressure from Viet Cong forces / An infantry company from 1st Bn, 506th and a reinforced cavalry troop from 2/17 Cav were sent to assist the ARVN forces / During the three days of their involvement (18-20 February), the two units lost seven men, including Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Mark Hammond

SP4 Richard Mark Hammond was on his second duty tour of Vietnam and had received the Purple Heart from wounds sustained in combat action during his first tour of service

**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



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center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and 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 / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

### *Miscellaneous:*

Richard Hammond was a graduate of Lafayette High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute before being drafted in the U.S. Army in April 1966 / Richard Mark Hammond was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Richard Mark Hammond is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 40e, Line 6

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown 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 its action during the Battle of the Bulge / 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 fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / 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 / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed 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 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



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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 Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

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

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



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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAMMOND**

**TONI**

**G.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Toni Gene Hammond honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Toni Hammond was born in Van Nuys, California / Hammond worked as a Legal System Analyst at Pillsbury in Minnesota, later moving to Cheektowaga / Toni Gene Hammond (nee Largent) passed away on 7 November at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAMMOND, JR.**

**ELWOOD J.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

27TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION, 1ST AIR CAVALRY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 ARMY OVERSEAS BARS

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Elwood "Jim" J. Hammond, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months a Supply Handler and assigned to the 27th Maintenance Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry

Elwood "Jim" J. Hammond, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 4 June 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Elwood Hammond was a member of the Frontiersmen Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #7545 in Tonawanda and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #77 / Elwood J. "Jim" Hammond passed away on 9 May 2022 at the age of 75 years old

The mission of the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, "Rough Riders," is to, on order, deploy and sustain the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division while defending assigned areas / It would then, on order, redeploy and prepare for future operations / The 27th Brigade Support Battalion was first constituted on 1 September 1921 in the regular Army as the 27th Ordnance Company, an element of the newly formed 1st Cavalry Division / During the Korean War, the Battalion deployed to Korea, where it received a Presidential Unit Citation Streamer / On 1 September 1963, the Battalion was redesignated as the 27th Maintenance Battalion / It was reorganized in 1965 as part of the reflagging of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) /



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Shortly thereafter, it was deployed to Vietnam and served 6 years with the 1st Cavalry division in the Vietnam Conflict / While in Vietnam, the Battalion earned the Vietnamese Valorous Unit Award, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Streamer, among many others / From June 2008 to June 2009, the Battalion deployed to southern Iraq as part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

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

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

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 Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service

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:** **HANSON**  
**WILLIAM**

**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)



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARASZKO

DENNIS

A.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** LTC

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1988

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/1 OAK LEAF (2)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/3 OAK LEAF (4)

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

ARMY OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON W/NUMBER "3"

HUMANITARION SERVICE MEDAL

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL W/2 OAK LEAF (3)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis A. Haraszko honorably served in the United States Army / LT COL Dennis Harazko was deployed to Vietnam as a Field Artillery Officer

LT COL Haraszko served our nation for over 24 years on active duty with a total of over 6 years of foreign service as a Field Artillery Officer, and Personnel Administration

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis A. Haraszko was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 30 November 1988

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis Haraszko graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and St. Bonaventure University prior to military service / Dennis A. Haraszko passed away on 31 July 2023

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



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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

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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 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

An Army Overseas Service Ribbon is a service military award of the United States military which recognizes those service members who have performed military tours outside the borders of the United States of America / There are different versions of the Overseas Service Ribbons for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard / Both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines receive the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon

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

The Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM) is a military service medal of the United States Armed Forces which was created on January 19, 1977 by President Gerald Ford under Executive Order 11965 / The medal may be awarded to members of the United States military (including Reserve and National Guard members) who distinguish themselves by meritorious participation in specified military acts or operations of a humanitarian nature

The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) is a military award presented to members of the United States Armed



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Forces who distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States in a designated combat theater / The meritorious acts or services rendered must be comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit but in a duty of lesser, though considerable, responsibility

The Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) is an award presented in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces / It is the third-highest award that the Department of Defense issues, and is awarded to those who distinguish themselves through non-combat meritorious service or achievement, in a joint capacity

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis A. Haraszko was also awarded the following Military honors:

## NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

## JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

The Joint Service Commendation Medal (JSCM) was authorized on June 25, 1963 and is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after January 1, 1963, distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement or service in a joint duty capacity / This award is intended for senior service on a joint military staff and is senior in precedence to service-specific Commendation Medals / As such, it is worn above the service Commendation Medals on a military uniform



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARIG

GARY

R.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Gary R. Harig honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Garg Hartig retired from the Heathcare and Consulting business after 40 years / Gary R. Harig passed away on 23 June 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARLEY

MICHAEL N.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 247 NORMAN AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Nathaniel Harley honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Harley was deployed to Vietnam on 15 September 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Michael Harley was Killed In Action on 28 May 1967 as a result of friendly fire in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

PFC Charles E. Johnson, PFC John J. Finnegan, and SP4 Michael N. Harley were assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry / On May 28, 1967, they were in a perimeter defensive position serving as a listening post when a friendly artillery round fell short and landed near their location / All three suffered fatal injuries after being hit by fragments from the exploding shell

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Nathaniel Harley was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Michael Nathaniel Harley is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21e, Line 4

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry



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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 4th Infantry Division is a division of the United States Army based at Fort Carson, Colorado / The division was first activated in 1917 and has served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom1 / The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry is a battalion of the United States Army and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado

The 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / Three 12th Infantry battalions deployed to South Vietnam with the 4th Division from August through October 1966 / The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was assigned, set up base camp at Dau Tieng in III Corps while the rest of the 4th Division was assigned to the Central Highlands in II Corps alongside the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division which had arrived in December 1965 / The 1st and 3rd Battalions returned in December 1970 with the 4th Division to Fort Carson, Colorado / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism

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.



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARMON, JR.

KEVIN

C.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** GREENBRANCH ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59)

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Kevin C. "KC" Harmon, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Kevin Harmon served aboard the USS Forrestal

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kevin Harmon retired after 25 years of service with the New York State Department of Corrections, with the rank of Sergeant / Kevin C. "KC" Harmon, Jr. passed away on 13 July 2024 at the age of 79 years old

USS Forrestal (CVA-59) (later CV-59, then AVT-59), was a supercarrier named after the first United States Secretary of Defense James Forrestal / Commissioned in 1955, she was the United States' first completed supercarrier, and was the lead ship of her class / The other carriers of her class were USS Saratoga, USS Ranger and USS Independence / She surpassed the World War II Japanese carrier Shinano as the largest carrier yet built, and was the first designed to support jet aircraft / The ship was affectionately called "The FID", because her namesake was the first Secretary of Defense, FID standing for "First In Defense" / This is also the slogan on the ship's insignia and patch / In June 1967, the USS Forrestal departed Norfolk for duty in waters off Vietnam / Once in the Gulf of Tonkin, Forrestal began four days of sorties / The planes of Attack Carrier Air Wing 17 flew about 150 missions against targets in North Vietnam from the ship / On 29 July 1967, during preparation for another strike, a Zuni rocket installed on an F-4 Phantom (#110), misfired, impacting an armed A-4 Skyhawk (#405)'s side, parked on the port side / The rocket's impact dislodged and ruptured the Skyhawk's 400-gallon external fuel tank / Fuel from the leaking tank caught fire, creating a serious conflagration that burned for hours, killing 134, injuring 161, destroying 21 aircraft and costing the Navy \$72 million / On the flight deck that day was Lieutenant Commander (later Senator) John McCain, who was wounded by an exploding bomb / Forrestal was



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deployed to Mediterranean waters four times between 1968 and 1973 / She also sped to Tunisia for rescue operations in the flooded Medjerda River Valley near Tunis / The ship logged three more Mediterranean deployments between 1973 and 1975 / On 22 July 1974, as a result of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Roger Davies requested the evacuation of U.S. citizens from that island nation / In a joint Navy-Marine Corps effort, HMM-162 from the 6th Fleet amphibious assault ship USS Inchon evacuated 466 people, 384 of them U.S. citizens, in only five hours / The USS Forrestal provided air cover for that operation / Forrestal served for nearly four decades in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Pacific before being decommissioned on 11 September 1993 / In February 2014 she was towed to Brownsville, Texas, to be scrapped / Scrapping was completed in December 2014



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARPER

CLYDE

R.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:**

Clyde Ray Harper honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Clyde Harper was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #8113 and American Veterans / Clyde Ray Harper passed away on 10 August 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARPER

ROBERT

P.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Robert P. Harper honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Robert Harper was deployed to Vietnam and assigned as General's Aide

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Harper attended Riverside High School / Prior to military service, Harper pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Biology at Ohio State University / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Robert Harper attended Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, earning his degree in 1974 / Robert Harper co-founded a group of veterinary practices, known as Buffalo Veterinary Group / Dr. Robert P. Harper passed away on 4 June 2022 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HARRIGAN**  
**DENNIS P.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**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:*

**Service Notes:**

Dennis P. Harrigan honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis Harrigan was a 1970 graduate of Tonawanda High School / Harrigan was the owner and CEO of Innovative Mechanical Services, Inc. / Dennis P. Harrigan passed away on 15 December 2025 at the age of 73 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HARRIMAN**

**ALLAN D.**

Hometown:

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:

Alan David Harriman honorably served in the United States Army / Alan Harriman was assigned as an Army K9 Dog Specialist while serving in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alan David "Al" Harriman passed away on 16 April 2022 at the age of 74 years old

Army Military K9 Dog Handlers are responsible for training and caring for their service dog / These service dogs are used in both abroad combat operations and installation security in the U.S. / K9 Dogs provide target odor detection and are usually seen as non-lethal threat neutralizers



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HARRINGTON, JR.

TIMOTHY F.

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Timothy F. Harrington, Jr. MD honorably served in the United States Navy / Dr. Timothy Harring served at the Pensacola Naval Air Station during the Vietnam War where he modernized the Family Practice Residency Program

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Timothy Harrington graduated from Timon High School and Canisius College with a degree in English and minors in Philosophy and languages / Harrington taught at Holland Central before attending Canisius for graduate studies / Returning later to college, Timothy Harrington graduated from the University of Buffalo Medical School / Harrington completed a residency in Family Practice before accepting his commission to the U.S. Navy / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Timothy Harrington opened his own private practice / Timothy F. Harrington, Jr. MD passed away on 28 December 2025



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HARRIS**

**JAMES**

**P.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James P. Harris honorably served in the United States Military

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James P. Harris passed away on 19 April 2026 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HARRIS**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** MSGT

**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:**

Master Sergeant William Harris honorably served in the United States Air Force / MSgt Harris was deployed to Vietnam as a Security Policeman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Harris joined the United States military shortly after completing high school / William Harris passed away on 11 January 2025 in Gulfport, Mississippi at the age of 85 years old

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



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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HART

HOMAS J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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 J. Hart honorably served in the United States Military / Thomas J. Hart was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HART**

**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HART, JR.**

**EUGENE**

**P.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 66 MAPLEWOOD ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Eugene P. Hart, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Eugene Hart was a former Councilman for the Town of West Seneca for 8 years / Hart was a member and President of the West Seneca Historical Society and Museum / Hart was a member of the Lion's Club / Eugene Hart was a member of the Veterans/Military Banner Committee and a member of American Legion Post #735



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HARTMAN**

**RONALD M.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

503RD ENGINEER COMPANY, 7TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, US ARMY EUROPE

**Medals / Citations:**

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Ronald M. Hartman honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Ronald Hartman was assigned as a Personnel Specialist and had 2-1/2 years of foreign service, assigned to the 503rd Engineer Company, 7th Engineer Brigade, US Army Europe in Germany

SP5 Ronald Hartman was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 18 December 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Hartman graduated from St. Francis High School and attended Alfred University / Hartman enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Hartman joined the Computer Task Group as a Programmer, retiring as a Recruitment Manager after 28 years with the company / Hartman was an Umpire for local baseball and softball games with the Western New York Umpire Association / Ronald M. Hartman passed away on 3 August 2022 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was authorized on 16 March 1802 and is a direct reporting unit and engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works / The day-to-day activities of the three mission areas are administered by a lieutenant general known as the chief of engineers/commanding general / The chief of engineers commands the



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Engineer Regiment, comprising combat engineer, rescue, construction, dive, and other specialty units, and answers directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army. Combat engineers, sometimes called sappers, form an integral part of the Army's combined arms team and are found in all Army service components: Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve / Their duties are to breach obstacles; construct fighting positions, fixed/floating bridges, and obstacles and defensive positions; place and detonate explosives; conduct route clearance operations; emplace and detect landmines; and fight as provisional infantry when required / For the military construction mission, the chief of engineers is directed and supervised by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for installations, environment, and energy, whom the President appoints and the Senate confirms / Military construction relates to construction on military bases and worldwide installations

The Cold War Service Medal Act authorizes a service medal for those in the military between September 1945 and December 1991 who served on active duty for 24 consecutive months during the Cold War; were deployed outside of the continental U.S. for a period of at least 30 days during the Cold War; or were a member of a reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold 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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HARTNETT**

**JAMES T.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 45 HARLEM ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CAPT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1991

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42)

USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62)

**Medals / Citations:**

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2ND AWARD)

BATTLE "E" RIBBON

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain James Thomas Hartnett honorably served in the United States Navy / CAPT James Harnett primary specialty was Line Officer Aviation Warfare - Pilot

Commander James Hartnett was commissioned in June 1967 from the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), University of Illinois, receiving his wings from VT-23, Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas in 1968

In January 1969, Commander Hartnett reported to VF-121, Naval Air Station Miramar, California for replacement training in the F-4 Phantom / In December, upon completion Hartnett transferred to VF-41, Naval Air Station, Oceana, Virginia where he was assigned as Line Division and Training Officer . CDR Harnett completed three cruises to the Mediterranean Sea aboard the USS Roosevelt (CVA-42)

In January 1975, CDR Hartnett was assigned to the Navy Recruiting Command as Officer Programs Officer, Navy Recruiting District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CDR Hartnett reported aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) in January 1975, serving as a catapult and arresting gear officer / CDR Hartnett helped develop the operating procedures in use aboard all Nimitz Class Carriers



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In April 1977, CDR James Harnett was transferred to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida serving as Safety Officer and Operations Officer while flying TA-4J aircraft

After being transferred to Naval Air Station, Oceana, Hartnett served as Maintenance Officer and deployed to the Indian Ocean aboard the USS Independence (CV-62) / CDR James Hartnett completed Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama prior to assignment in July 1982 to Headquarters, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany where CDR Hartnett was assigned as a Staff Officer

James Thomas Hartnett was promoted to Captain in 1988, with AFNORTH, Oslo, Norway as his last duty assignment / Captain James Hartnett retired from the U.S. Navy on 30 September 1991 with over 24 years of Naval Service

## *Base Assignments:*

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas - NAS is a United States Navy Naval Air Station located approximately 3 miles east of Kingsville, Texas / NAS Kingsville is under the jurisdiction of Navy Region Southeast and is the headquarters of Training Air Wing Two / The station also operates a nearby satellite airfield, NALF Orange Grove / Commissioned on 4 July 1942 as Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Kingsville, it served nearby Naval Air Station Corpus Christi as an auxiliary field, aiding in training many of the U.S Navy's pilots for World War II / At the start of the Korean War in 1951, it was re-commissioned as an auxiliary field for NAS Corpus Christi, and as a permanent component of the Naval Aeronautical shore establishment / In 1968, the airfield was redesignated as Naval Air Station Kingsville, and has hosted flight training operations throughout its existence

Naval Air Station Miramar (Marine Corps Air Station Miramar), California - MCAS Miramar is a United States Marine Corps installation that is home to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which is the aviation element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force / It is located in Miramar, a community of San Diego, California / The airfield has been named Mitscher Field since 1955, after Admiral M. A. Mitscher, who was the commander of Task Force 58 during World War II / The air station is the former location of Pacific Fleet fighter and Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft (F-4 Phantom II, F-14 Tomcat, E-2 Hawkeye) and is best known as the former location of the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School (NFWS) / In 1947, the Marines moved to MCAS El Toro in Orange County, California, and Miramar was redesignated as NAAS Miramar (Naval Auxiliary Air Station Miramar) / It became NAS Miramar (Naval Air Station Miramar) on 1 March 1952 / In 1999, MCAS El Toro and MCAS Tustin were closed and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing returned to Miramar when it officially became Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida - Created in 1825, NAS Pensacola is a United States Navy base located next to Warrington, Florida / NAS Pensacola is best known as the initial primary training base for all U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard officers pursuing designation as naval aviators and naval flight officers, the advanced training base for most naval flight officers, and as the home base for the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the precision-flying team known as the Blue Angels / The air station also hosts the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) and the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) / With the start of World War II, NAS Pensacola became the hub of air training activities training 1,100 cadets a month / Naval aviators from NAS Pensacola were called upon to train the Doolittle Raiders at Eglin Field in 1942 for carrier take-offs in their B-25 Mitchell bombers / During the Korean War, the military was caught in the midst of



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transition from propellers to jets / The air station had to revise its courses and training techniques. NAS Pensacola produced 6,000 aviators from 1950 to 1953 / In 1971, NAS Pensacola was picked as the headquarters site for CNET (Chief of Naval Education and Training), a new command which combined direction and control of all Navy education and training activities and organizations

Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, Virginia - NAS Oceana is a United States Navy Naval Air Station located in Virginia Beach, Virginia / Constructed in 1941, The base is under the jurisdiction of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and is the headquarters of Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic and Carrier Air Wings 1, 3, 7 and 8 / As home to all East Coast strike fighter jet squadrons, the Naval Air Station is classified as a master jet base / NAS Oceana has grown to become one of the largest and most advanced air stations in the world, NAS Oceana's primary mission is to train and deploy the Navy's Atlantic Fleet strike fighter squadrons of F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets. Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers stationed at NAS Oceana / NAS Oceana flies approximately 219,000 training operations each year

Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama -Officially known as Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, is a United States Air Force (USAF) installation under the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) / The installation is located in Montgomery, Alabama / Occupying the site of the first Wright Flying School, it was named in honor of Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, a native of Atmore, Alabama / The base is the headquarters of Air University (AU), a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC), and is the U.S. Air Force's center for Joint Professional Military Education (PME) / Maxwell AFB is also the site of Federal Prison Camp, Montgomery, a minimum security facility for male inmates / Air University, an institution providing continuing military education for Army Air Forces personnel, was established at Maxwell in 1946, prior to the U.S. Air Force becoming an independent service the following year / Maxwell Field was renamed Maxwell Air Force Base in September 1947 when the Air Force was created / As home of the Air University, Maxwell became the postgraduate academic center of the U.S. Air Force

The United States European Command (EUCOM) is one of the eleven unified combatant commands of the United States military, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany / The Commander of the United States EUCOM simultaneously serves as the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR) within NATO, a military alliance / During the Gulf War and Operation Northern Watch, EUCOM controlled the forces flying from Incirlik Air Base

Allied Forces Northern Europe (AFNORTH) was the northern Major Subordinate Command of NATO's Allied Command Europe (ACE), located at Kolsås outside Oslo, Norway / In the case of war with the Soviet Union, AFNORTH would assume supreme command of all Allied forces in northern Europe (Norway and Denmark) and West Germany north of Elbe/Hamburg and adjacent sea territory / Headquarters Allied Air Forces Northern Europe was created by SHAPE on 29 March 1951 / HQ AFNORTH Kolsås closed on the morning of 30 June 1994 / The HQ that replaced it, HQ Allied Forces Northwestern Europe (AFNORTHWEST), located at RAF High Wycombe in the United Kingdom, was activated in the afternoon of 30 June 1994 / The headquarters facility at Kolsås is now used by the Norwegian defense logistics organization

## *Miscellaneous:*

USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVB/CVA/CV-42) was the second of three Midway-class aircraft carriers / Roosevelt was commissioned on Navy Day, 27 October 1945, at the New York Naval Shipyard / The Roosevelt spent most of her active deployed career operating in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the United States Sixth Fleet / From



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September 1948 to January 1949, Roosevelt undertook a second tour of duty with U.S. Naval Forces, Mediterranean / In 1950, Roosevelt became the first carrier to take nuclear weapons to sea / In September and October 1952, she participated in Operation Mainbrace, the first major NATO exercise in the North Atlantic / Roosevelt operated with other major fleet units, including the aircraft carriers USS Midway, USS Wasp, and HMS Eagle, as well as the battleships USS Wisconsin and HMS Vanguard / The ship was decommissioned on 30 September 1977 and was scrapped shortly afterward / She was the first aircraft carrier of the United States Navy to be named in honor of a president of the United States

USS Nimitz (CVN-68) is an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy, and the lead ship of her class / One of the largest warships in the world, she was laid down, launched, and commissioned as CVAN-68, "aircraft carrier, attack, nuclear powered", but she was later redesignated as CVN-68, "aircraft carrier, multi-mission, nuclear-powered", on 30 June 1975 / The ship was named after World War II Pacific fleet commander Chester W. Nimitz, USN, (1885–1966), who was the Navy's third fleet admiral / USS Nimitz first deployed to the Mediterranean Sea on 7 July 1976, with Carrier Air Wing 8 embarked in company with the nuclear-powered cruisers USS South Carolina and USS California / In November 1976, Nimitz was awarded the Battle "E" from Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, for being the most efficient and foremost aircraft carrier in the Atlantic Fleet / In November 1979 the ship moved to the Indian Ocean in response to the Iran hostage crisis in which the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, was overtaken and 52 hostages were held / Prior to this trip, the ship took part in the shooting of the 1980 film "The Final Countdown", whose story was specifically set aboard the Nimitz / After four months on station, Operation Evening Light was launched from Nimitz's decks in an attempt to rescue the U.S. Embassy staff / The mission was aborted after a helicopter crashed at a refueling point in the Iranian desert / The ship returned home 26 May 1980, having spent 144 days at sea / On 1 September 1997, Nimitz began an around the world cruise, again supporting Southern Watch, which ended in Newport News, Virginia on 2 March 1998 / In January 2010, while in the Persian Gulf, the ship was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for back-to-back deployments in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008 / The USS Nimitz is scheduled for retirement in 2027

The fifth USS Independence (CV/CVA-62) was an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy / She was the fourth and final member of the Forrestal class of conventionally powered supercarriers / She entered service in 1959, with much of her early years spent in the Mediterranean Fleet / The Independence was decommissioned in 1998 after 39 years of active service / Stored at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington, the ex-Independence was towed beginning on 10 March 2017 to Brownsville, Texas for scrapping / She arrived on 1 June 2017 and dismantling was completed by early 2019

The Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) is a military decoration of the United States Department of Defense, which is presented to United States Armed Forces service members who perform superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility / The decoration is most often presented to general and flag officers, followed by a lesser number of Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force colonels and Navy and Coast Guard captains / The medal is presented in the name of the United States Secretary of Defense and was established by President Gerald R. Ford on February 6, 1976, in Executive Order 11904 / It is analogous and senior to the Legion of Merit, albeit awarded for service in a joint duty capacity

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



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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" / On August 19, 1994, to recognize those of the United States Marine Corps who had received the Navy Achievement Medal, the name of the decoration was officially changed to the "Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal" / The award is still often referred to in shorthand speech as the "Navy Achievement Medal" or "NAM" for short / The "V" device is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations

The Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) is an award presented in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces / It is the third-highest award that the Department of Defense issues, and is awarded to those who distinguish themselves through non-combat meritorious service or achievement, in a joint capacity

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 Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps (including foreign military personnel), distinguishes himself/herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service / To merit this award, the acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner above that normally expected and sufficient to distinguish the individual above those performing similar services as set forth in the following: Outstanding and worthy of special recognition, but not to the degree required for the Bronze Star Medal or Air Medal when combat is involved or the Meritorious Service Medal or Air Medal when combat is not involved / The achievement should be such as to constitute a definite contribution to the Naval Service, such as an invention, or improvement in design, procedure or organization / On 17 January 1991, the "V" (for valor) was authorized for wear on the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal / The "V" is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations

The Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon is awarded to Navy and Marine Corps units that distinguish themselves through feats of valor in combat or exceptional service in non-combat circumstances / It is given for outstanding heroism in combat against a hostile foreign force or for extremely meritorious service / The award is comparable to the Bronze Star for individual actions / It is distinct from the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and is awarded by SECNAV, CNO, or CMC

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 Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR)[5] is a service award of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps / The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is granted to any member of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps assigned to a deployable unit (e.g., a ship (including submarines), aircraft squadron, air wing or air group, detachment, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Air Ground Task Force, or other unit type that operates away from its assigned homeport) and is forward-deployed for a period of either 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days each within a given 12-month period; or 6 months stationed overseas in a forward deployed location / When a ship's crew qualifies for the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the ship is authorized to paint and display the ribbon and award stars on the port and starboard side of the bulwark aft to designate the number of deployments conducted throughout the commissioned life of the ship since August 1974

The Navy "E" Ribbon or Battle Efficiency Ribbon (informally the Battle "E" ribbon) was authorized on March 31, 1976, as a unit award for battle efficiency competition / The service ribbon replaced the "E" patch previously sewn on the right sleeve of the enlisted naval uniform for rates/pay grades E-1 through E-6 / The Navy "E" Ribbon denotes the wearer was on permanent duty aboard a U.S. Navy ship or in a unit that won a battle efficiency competition

The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) is a military award presented to members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States in a designated combat theater / The meritorious acts or services rendered must be comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit but in a duty of lesser, though considerable, responsibility

## ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

### Overseas Service Ribbon:

An Overseas Service Ribbon is a service military award of the United States military which recognizes those service members who have performed military tours outside the borders of the United States of America / There are different versions of the Overseas Service Ribbons for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard / Both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines receive the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HASSETT**  
**STEPHEN**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

Stephen Hassett honorably served in the United States Military / Stephen Hassett was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HASTIE**

**JAMES R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO3

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

TRAINING SQUADRON THREE (TRARON THREE)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 3rd Class James R. Hastie honorably served in the United States Navy as an Aviation Machinist's Mate (Reciprocating Engine Mechanic)

PO3 James Hastie was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on 12 November 1969

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Florida - Naval Air Station Whiting Field is a United States Navy base located near Milton, Florida, with some outlying fields near Navarre, Florida, in south and central Santa Rosa County, and is one of the Navy's two primary pilot training bases (the other being NAS Corpus Christi, Texas) / NAS Whiting Field provides training for U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force student pilots, as well as those of several allied nations / NAS Whiting Field is home to Training Air Wing Five (TRAWING 5) / Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Whiting Field was commissioned on July 16, 1943 and is named for Kenneth Whiting, who was commissioned from the United States Naval Academy on 25 February 1908 / Whiting qualified in submarines, commanding USS Porpoise (SS-7), USS Shark (SS-8), USS Tarpon (SS-175), and USS Seal (SS-183) / In 1914 he learned to fly under Orville Wright and was designated Naval Aviator number 16 / He assumed command of the 1st Naval Air Unit in France following America's entry into World War I and was subsequently assigned to command Naval Air Stations 14 and 15 at RNAS Killingholme, England / He was awarded the Navy Cross "for exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility"

**Miscellaneous:**

James R. Hastie passed away on 28 May 2022 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery



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Training Squadron Three (VT-3) was commissioned on May 1, 1960, at South Whiting Field / Its primary mission at the time was to instruct student Naval Aviators in radio instruments, air-to-air gunnery and formation flying / Air-to-air gunnery was discontinued in January 1965 and familiarization and basic instrument training was added in its place / In 1973, VT-3 moved to its present location at North Whiting Field / Today, VT-3 continues its legacy of joint training with a ready-room of Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force instructor pilots

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:** HAUPTMAN  
PAUL

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Paul Hauptman honorably served in the United States Army / Paul Hauptman was stationed in Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Paul Hauptman had a successful career in commercial printing with Sterling Sommer, where he worked for nearly 40 years and was recognized as the top salesman in Buffalo for many of those years / Hauptman was a longtime member of Brookfield Country Club / Paul Hauptman passed away on 11 November 2025 at the age of 81 years old



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**Name:** HAUSAUER

ROGER H.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST RECON BATTALION, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 4 BRONZE STARS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Roger H. Hausauer honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Cpl. Hausauer was deployed to Vietnam for 20 months as a Radio Telegraph Operator and was awarded two Purple Heart medals for wounds suffered during combat action

Corporal Roger H. Hausauer was honorably discharged at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, (Santa Ana) California, on 9 December 1968 with reserve obligations ending 4 April 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger Hausauer graduated from West Seneca Central High School / Hausauer was a retiree of Verizon where he had worked for over 35 years as a Telecommunications and IT Engineer / Roger Hausauer was a volunteer Fireman with the Pine Hill Fire Department in Cheektowaga / Roger Hausauer volunteered as a coach for many youth sports teams and was Head Coach for the Airlines J. Football Program / Hausauer was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Depew / Hausauer served as PPC of Amvets Buddy Knaus Post #14 in Depew / Roger H. Hausauer passed away on 4 January 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

A Radio Telegraph Operators operates and keeps in repair equipment used in radiotelegraph communications / Listens to telegraph signal, types message on form, and relays it to addressee by telephone or teletype /



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Manipulates key to call ships or stations by code, and to send messages after acknowledgment / Monitors emergency frequency for distress calls / Performs routine repairs and maintenance, such as changing tubes, resistors, and transmitters

1st Reconnaissance Battalion is a reconnaissance battalion in the United States Marine Corps / It is a stand-alone battalion with no parent regiment and falls directly under the command of the 1st Marine Division / 1st Recon Bn is located at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California / The unit was founded in 1937 as the 1st Tank Company of the 1st Marine Brigade and went through several name changes before it became the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion in 1958 / 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, which conducted deep reconnaissance and direct action raids / The battalion was deactivated on June 12, 1992, before being restored as the Reconnaissance Company of the 1st Marine Division's Headquarters and Service Battalion on October 1, 1993 / The Battalion was deactivated in 2006 and the majority of the personnel were used to create 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion / The 1st Reconnaissance Battalion saw action during World War II and the Korean War / 1st Reconnaissance Battalion deployed to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba and Haiti in October–November 1962 to await the invasion of Cuba / Upon the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the battalion returned to MCB Camp Pendleton / In June 1966, the 1st Recon Bn was deployed to Vietnam to conduct extensive reconnaissance efforts between Da Nang and Tam Ky / The mission was divided into two phases; the first phase was to send in his recon assets in an area in the vicinity of the Hiệp Đức District / The division's intelligence (D-2) section had sources of a headquarters of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) 2nd Division lying somewhere near the western border of I Corps in the Quế Sơn Valley / The second phase consisted of a massive exploitation of the recon team's findings, by sending in a joint show-of-force; four infantry battalions from the 1st Marine Division and the ARVN 2nd Division / On 6 July 1966, the 1st Recon battalion covered four-hundred square kilometers of his area of operation (AO); sighting forty-six PAVN that were scattered throughout the dense, rugged double- and triple- canopy jungle terrain, roughly ranging of 200 soldiers at most / The ground combat and supporting elements resulted in thirteen PAVN killed, with four prisoners / Operation Scott Orchard was the last major 1st Marine Division operation of the Vietnam War in April 1971 / The operation began when Marines of 1st Recon Bn. commenced a heliborne assault into abandoned Fire Support Base (FSB) Dagger at 10:45 on 7 April 1971 / After the brief firefight, the fire support base was declared secured / The last elements of the battalion left South Vietnam on 13 May 1971 / In 1990-1991, the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion participated in the Persian Gulf War and in January 2003, the battalion deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

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



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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 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:** HAUSER

EUGENE

P.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Eugene Patrick Hauser honorably served in the United States Air Force / Eugene Hauser was assigned as a Sentry Guard while deployed in South East Asia during the Vietnam War

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Eugene Patrick Hauser passed away on 13 June 2020 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAVENS**

**ROBERT**

**F.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert F. Havens honorably served in the United States Air Force for 8 years

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert F. Havens passed away on 18 July 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HAYDEN

BRUCE S.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Bruce Stanwood Hayden honorably served in the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps as a Hospital Corpsman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, Bruce Hayden became a Lieutenant with the Buffalo Fire Department / Bruce Hayden was an accomplished hiker, hiking the Appalachian Trail, the High Sierras and completing the entire Camino de Santiago four times / Bruce Stanwood Hayden passed away on 18 July 2024 at the age of 89 years old

Navy Medical Corpsman were the enlisted medical specialists of the Navy and Marine Corps / Medical Corpsman are military enlisted person trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment / The Medical Corps consists of commissioned medical officers who are physicians / A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment / U.S. Army Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HAYES

THOMAS M.

**Hometown:** DERBY

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Thomas M. Hayes honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HAYWOOD**  
**DOUGLAS A.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/V DEVICE

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

PARACHUTIST BADGE

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

RANGER TAB

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Douglas Anthony Haywood honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Douglas Haywood served for 14 years in the US Army, including two tours of duty in Vietnam / Captain Douglas Haywood was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone and awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Captain Douglas Haywood was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 28 Oct. 1983

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Monroe, Virginia - Fort Monroe is a former military installation in Hampton, Virginia, at Old Point Comfort, the southern tip of the Virginia Peninsula, United States / It is currently managed by partnership between the Fort Monroe Authority for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the National Park Service, and the city of Hampton as the Fort Monroe National Monument / Along with Fort Wool, Fort Monroe originally guarded the navigation channel between the Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads, the natural roadstead at the confluence of the Elizabeth, the Nansemond and the James rivers / Fort Monroe (and adjacent Fort Wool on an artificial island across the channel) were completed in 1834, as part of the third system of U.S. fortifications / The principal fort was named in honor of U.S. President James Monroe / Although Virginia became part of the Confederate States of America, Fort Monroe remained in Union hands throughout the American Civil War (1861–1865) / For two years following the war, the former Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, was imprisoned at the fort / His first months of confinement were spent in a cell of the casemated fort walls that is now part of its Casemate



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Museum / Around the turn of the 20th century, numerous gun batteries were added in and near Fort Monroe; it became the largest fort and headquarters of the Harbor Defenses of Chesapeake Bay / In the 19th and 20th centuries it housed artillery schools, including the Coast Artillery School (1907–1946) / The Continental Army Command (CONARC) (1955–1973) headquarters was at Fort Monroe, succeeded by the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) following a division of CONARC into TRADOC and United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) in 1973 / CONARC was responsible for all active Army units in the continental United States / TRADOC was headquartered at the fort from 1973 until it was moved to Fort Eustis in 2011 / Fort Monroe was deactivated 15 September 2011, and many of its functions were transferred to nearby Fort Eustis / On 1 November 2011, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation to designate portions of Fort Monroe as a national monument

Fort Moore, Georgia - Ft. Moore (formerly Fort Benning) is a United States Army post in the Columbus, Georgia area / Located on Georgia's border with Alabama, Fort Moore supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / As a power projection platform, the post can deploy combat-ready forces by air, rail, and highway for their designated mission / Fort Moore is the home of the United States Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, the United States Army Armor School, United States Army Infantry School, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly known as the School of the Americas), elements of the 75th Ranger Regiment, the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, and other tenant units / Established in 1918 as Camp Benning, named after Confederate General Henry L. Benning in the American Civil War, it was the Home of the Infantry / In 1922 Camp Benning became Fort Benning / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission recommended that Fort Benning be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal Moore and his wife Julia Compton Moore, both of whom are buried on post / The redesignation ceremony officially renaming Fort Benning as Fort Moore was held on 11 May 2023

## *Miscellaneous:*

Douglas Anthony Haywood passed away on 4 October 2024 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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 Ranger Tab, created in 1950, is a service school qualification tab of the United States Army, awarded to any soldier who completes Ranger School at the U.S. Army Fort Moore, Georgia / Soldiers who are awarded the Ranger tab are authorized to wear it for the remainder of their military careers / The Ranger tab is considered the pre-eminent award for soldiers in combat arms branches within the United States Army / It is considered an unwritten rule in the Infantry Branch that a Ranger tab is required to achieve full career success, with the majority of commissioned and non-commissioned officers serving in battalion and above leadership roles (within brigade combat teams and infantry divisions) holding the award

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HEATH**

**BENJAMIN C.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Benjamin C. Heath Thomas M. Hayes honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Benjamin C. Heath passed away on 6 September 2023 at the age of 76 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HEATH**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

William Heath honorably served in the United States Military / William Heath was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEATH, JR.

LEROY L.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:

**Service Notes:**

LeRoy L. Heath, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

LeRoy Heath retired from the Tonawanda Chevrolet Plant after 43 years of service / LeRoy L. Heath, Jr. passed away on 2 February 2026 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEATH, JR.

LERROY L.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:

**Service Notes:**

LeRoy L. Heath, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

LeRoy Heath retired from the Chevrolet Plant, Tonawanda, after 43 years of service / LeRoy L. Heath, Jr. passed away on 2 February 2026 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEFFLEY

JOHN

R.

**Hometown:** COLDEN

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John Ross Heffley honorably served in the United States Navy as a Nurse stationed in Portsmouth, New Hampshire

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Heffley owned multiple harness race horses that competed at Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs / Heffley owned the Harness Shop located at Buffalo Raceway / John Heffley was a member of the WNY Horseman's Association and the United States Trotting Association / Heffley was also a member of the Mastiff Club of America / John Ross Heffley passed away on 4 January 2024



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HEHR**

**JAMES**

**W.**

Hometown: DEPEW

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:

Service Notes:

James W. Hehr honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Hehr was a long term fire fighter for the Hy-View Volunteer Fire Dept and past Fire Chief / James W. Hehr passed away on 24 October 2025 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Lancaster, 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HEIMBURG**  
**PHILIP**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**  
 **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1975

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Philip Heimburg honorably served in the United States Navy / Philip Heimburg was assigned to the Navy Seabees, serving as a Heavy Construction Machine Operator and Dispatcher / Philip Heimburg was stationed in Korea, and Loring AFB in Maine / Philip served approximately 4 1/2 years active duty and 14 years in the Navy Reserve / Heimburg was activated for a short period of time during the 11 September 2001 crisis and stationed in Spain

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Philip Heimburg graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School in 1970 and joined the Navy after graduation / Philip Heimburg was a member of the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee and is an active member of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Island X-5

United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the U.S. Naval Construction Force (NCF) / Naval Construction Battalions were conceived of as replacements for civilian construction companies in combat zones after the attack on Pearl Harbor / At the time civilian contractors had roughly 70,000 men working U.S. Navy contracts overseas / International law made it illegal for civilian workers to resist an attack and by doing so would classify them as guerrillas and could lead to summary execution / With roots dating back to World War II, the Seabees were formally established on 5 March 1942, to meet the Navy's growing need to construct bases, build airfields, conduct underwater construction and build roads, bridges and other support facilities while providing protection for themselves and those around them as part of the war effort / The Seabees were deployed to Vietnam twice in the 1950s to survey and map the roads / Seabee teams (501 and 502) arrived in January 1963 as the first Seabees of the Vietnam War / The last battalion withdrew late 1971 with the last Seabee teams out a year later / When it was over, 137 Seabee teams were sent to Vietnam



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and had built 15 CB camps and deployed 22 battalions / In the over seven decades since its founding, Seabees have gone on to serve in most major U.S. conflicts

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEIN

JAMES J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-6

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL W/PALM

NAVY OCCUPATION MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

MARINE CORPS COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY-MARINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

USMC GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (6 AWARDS)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant James J. Hein honorably served in the Marine Corps for 20 years during the Korea War era and in the Vietnam War

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James J. Hein passed away on 28 August 2021

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 / 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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

The Navy Occupation Service Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was "Awarded to commemorate the services of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel in the occupation of certain territories of the enemies of the United States during World War II" and recognized those personnel who participated in the European and Asian occupation forces during, and following World War II / The medal was also bestowed to personnel who performed duty in West Berlin between 1945 and 1990

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

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

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



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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:** HEINEMAN

RALPH N.

**Hometown:** CHAFFEE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1959

**Year Discharged:** 1962

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL (BERLIN)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Ralph Norman Heineman honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Ralph Heineman was assigned as a Heavy Weapons Infantryman / SGT Heineman had over 2-1/2 years of foreign service in Germany, and was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, US Army Europe

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ralph Norman Heineman passed away on 25 December 2021 and donated his body to the University of Buffalo

Heavy Weapons Infantryman employ, engage, and eliminate threats with a variety of heavy weapons, in an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) and Heavy Weapons Company / Heavy Weapons Infantryman support Battalion Commanders mission with the versatility of the Weapons Company capabilities providing close and long-range missile and heavy machine gun fires and provides anti-armor tactics

The 19th Infantry Regiment ("Rock of Chickamauga"[1]) is a United States Army infantry regiment which is assigned to the US Army Training and Doctrine Command, with the assignment of conducting Basic and Advanced Infantry Training / 2nd Battalion, 19th Regiment was part of the 24th Infantry Division and fought in the Geum River line during the Korean War / Withdrawn 1989-06-16 from the Combat Arms Regimental System, reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System, transferred to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, and assigned to Basic and Advanced Infantry Training duty at Fort Moore (then Fort Benning), Georgia



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The Army of Occupation Medal is a military award of the United States military which was established by the United States War Department on 5 April 1946 / The medal was created in the aftermath of the Second World War to recognize those who had performed occupation service in either Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan or Korea / The first medal was presented to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had been the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force Commander during World War II / Because of the legal status of West Berlin as an occupied territory, the Army of Occupation Medal was issued for forty-five years until the unification of Germany in 1990, making it one of the longest active military awards of both the Second World War and the Cold War / To be awarded the Army of Occupation Medal, a service member was required to have performed at least thirty consecutive days of military duty within a designated geographical area of military occupation



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEININGER

ROBERT J.

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Heininger honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Heininger passed away on 21 October 2024 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEINZ

DENNIS R.

**Hometown:** SPRINGVILLE

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST 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:**

Corporal Dennis Ralph Heinz served in the United States Army / CPL Dennis Heinz was deployed to Vietnam on 19 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Dennis Heinz was Killed In Action on 16 April 1970 as a result of an explosive device during hostile actions in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

During a patrol on 16 April 1970, Corporal Dennis Ralph Heinz was killed by shrapnel when a booby trap was tripped causing an explosion

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis Heinz was a 1966 graduate of Griffith Institute and Central School Springfield / Heinz attended Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan and Northern Michigan University in Marquette / Heinz worked at the Agway Inc. Feed Mill in Buffalo before being drafted into the army in July 1969 / Dennis Ralph Heinz was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Cemetery, Springville, New York

Dennis Ralph Heinz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11w, Line 13



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown 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 its action during the Battle of the Bulge / 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 fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / 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 / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed 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 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is 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 / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 1972

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEISER

DUANE

K.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 153 JEWETT AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 18TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

**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 Duane Kenneth Heiser honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Duane Heiser was deployed to Vietnam on 22 January 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Private First-Class Duane Heiser was Killed In Action on 15 March 1966 as a results of burns during combat operations in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

On 15 March 1966, PFC Heinz's platoon was clearing a zone for a new base camp when Air Force fighter bombers erroneously dropped fragmentation bombs on his group / His platoon leader yelled to scatter and as they did a second bomb hit / Before he could reach shelter, Heiser was hit by a canister of napalm, an incendiary weapon containing a gelling agent and volatile petrochemical (usually gas or diesel fuel) / PFC Duane Heiser died after sustaining 3rd degree burns to his entire body / The death of PFC Heiser occurred as a consequence of friendly fire

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Duane Heiser graduated from School # 61 in 1961 and graduated from Bennett High School in 1965 / Heiser was a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol / Duane Heiser enlisted in the Army in 1965 / Duane Kenneth Heiser was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Duane Kenneth Heiser is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06e, Line 10

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 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 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 18th Infantry Regiment ("Vanguards")[1] is an Army Infantry regiment / The 18th Infantry Regiment currently exists with one active battalion under the U.S. Army Regimental System and has no regimental headquarters / 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment's home duty station is located at Fort Riley, Kansas with the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division / It is a combined arms battalion / The 18th Infantry participated in the invasion of Sicily and Normandy during World War II / The 18th Infantry Regiment would experience almost eleven months of continual combat operations from the allied invasion of Normandy (June 6, 1944) to the end of World War II in Europe in May 1945 / Among the many actions that the regiment participated in were Battle of Aachen, Battle of Hürtgen Forest, The Battle of the Bulge and crossing at the Remagen bridgehead 15–16 March 1945

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HELD

JAMES A.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal James A. "Gomer" Held honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL James Held was deployed to Vietnam for 13 months / LCPL Held was trained as a Helo Mechanic/Crew Chief for CH-46 Helicopters

Lance Corporal James Held was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corp on 3 April 1970 at Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, NC

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Held retired from the Iron Workers Local 6 / James A. "Gomer" Held passed away on 19 June 2025 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Helicopter Mechanics, CH-46; inspect and maintain helicopter airframes and airframe components and perform duties relating to flight line operation

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HELD

LAWRENCE J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Lawrence J. Held honorably served in the United States Army and the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence Held retired as a Supervisor from GMAC Financing / Lawrence J. Held passed away on 31 January 2026 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HENDRICKS

PAUL

F.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Paul F. Hendricks honorably served in the United States Armed Forces

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Hendricks was a member of the Edsel Car Club / Paul F. Hendricks passed away on 7 September 2025 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HENLEY  
JOHN

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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 Henley honorably served in the United States Military / John Henley 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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HENNESSEY

PAUL J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Paul J. Hennessey honorably served in the United States Army / Paul Hennessey was stationed in Germany for 2 years and 5 months as a Field Communications Crewman

Paul Hennessey was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 5 February 1963 with reserve obligations ending 16 February 1966

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Hennessey worked for the United States Postal Service until his retirement / Paul J. Hennessey passed away on 7 January 2025 at the age of 84 years old and interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The Army Communications Field Specialist serves as a person that deals with both hardware and software systems / These systems include radio, Teletype, computer networks, telephone switching systems, cryptographic equipment and other various network systems / It is a position that uses various computers, radios and other communication type gear / It can include working on the design, operation, installation, and connection of different types of communications networks / These are the Army communications networks that receive, transmit and process information and data.



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HENNING

DOUGLAS A.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:** S-3639 SOUTHWESTERN BOULEVARD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

SILVER STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private Douglas Allen Henning honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Douglas Henning was deployed to Vietnam on 3 October 1967 as an Indirect Fire Infantryman / PVT Douglas Henning was Killed In Action on 17 July 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

Private Douglas Henning was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for acts of bravery on the battlefield

**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

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the



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United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by 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

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

### *Miscellaneous:*

Douglas Henning graduated from Orchard Park Senior High School in 1965 where he played varsity football and was a division all-star / Henning worked for a meat packing company prior to entering the U.S. Army in April 1966 / Douglas Allen Henning was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Douglas Allen Henning is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 52w, Line 43

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 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown 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 its action



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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during the Battle of the Bulge / 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 fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / 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 / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed 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 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is 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 / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 1972

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 Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

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



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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

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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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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:** HENS

JOHN

M.

**Hometown:** EAST AMHERST

**Address:** 6511 CONNOR ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS 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:**

Corporal John Michael Hens honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL John Hens was deployed to Vietnam 5 November 1965 as a Small Arms Repairer/Technician / CPL John Hens was Killed In Action on 3 October 1966 from an explosive device during combat action in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

While guarding a Medical Assistance mission in Quang Ngai Province, CPL John Hens was killed as a result of a grenade explosion

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Hens was a graduate of DeSales High School in Lockport / Hens was active with the Erie County Saddlehorse 4-H Club / John Hens attended St. Mary's College in San Antonio, Texas before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in December 1963 / John Michael Hens was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Swormville, New York

John Michael Hens is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 40



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A Small Arms Repairer/Technician in the Marine Corps is responsible for inspecting, maintaining, and repairing all small arms / The job is performed by Privates through Lance Corporals under supervision, and by Corporals through Gunnery Sergeants who also train and supervise others / The small arms repairer/technician performs basic duties incident to inspection, maintenance, and repair of all small arms, less vehicular mounted weapons / At the Corporal through Gunnery Sergeant level, the Small Arms Repairer/Technician performs, trains, and supervises various duties incident to inspection, maintenance, and repair of all small arms, to include vehicular mounted small arms

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / 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

Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) is an active air group of the United States Marine Corps, tasked with providing fighter and assault support aircraft / It is currently part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW), itself an integral part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and based at MCAS Iwakuni in Japan / The mission of Marine Aircraft Group 12, as the tactical air arm of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, is to conduct air reconnaissance, electronic warfare, anti-air warfare, offensive air support, control of aircraft and missiles, and assault support from advanced bases, expeditionary bases or the sea base supported by organic aviation logistics and aviation ground support logistics as required by III MEF and United States Pacific Command and be prepared to conduct such support and engagement operations as may be directed / In May 1965, MAG-12 deployed to Chu Lai, Vietnam, to support Marine infantry and other allied forces in their engagements against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army units / The Group participated in many large operations, including the recapture of Hue City and the relief of besieged units at Khe Sanh / Two more Navy Unit Citations were received as a result of the Group's contribution to the Vietnam War effort / After almost 5 years of combat, MAG-12 was withdrawn from the Republic of Vietnam in February 1970, and reestablished at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan / In May 1972, MAG-12 again deployed to Vietnam and conducted combat operations from Bien Hoa Air Base until finally withdrawing from the war on 29 January 1973 where they were the last American combat aviation unit still in country / MAG-12 then returned to MCAS Iwakuni, where it remains today

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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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

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 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:** 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:**

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

**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:**

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HERBERGER

MELVIN E.

**Hometown:** SWORMVILLE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CAPT

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Melvin Edward "Mel" Herberger honorably served in the United States Army / CAPT Melvin Herberger was deployed to Vietnam / Captain Melvin Herberger was awarded the Bronze Star medal for Valor during combat operations

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Melvin Herberger was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #4019, a life member of the American Legion Post #60, DAV, and member of Moose Lodge 1483 / Melvin Edward "Mel" Herberger passed away on 21 September 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HERDLE**

**JEFFERY**

**C.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HERKEY**

**KENNETH L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** MAIN STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

410TH BOMBARDMENT WING , CIVIL ENGINEERING

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Kenneth L. Herkey honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Kenneth Herkey was stationed at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan

**Base Assignments:**

Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas - Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas - Lackland Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Bexar County, Texas / The base is under the jurisdiction of the 802d Mission Support Group, Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and an enclave of the city of San Antonio / It is the only site for Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) / Lackland AFB is part of Joint Base San Antonio, an amalgamation of the Fort Sam Houston, the Randolph Air Force Base and Lackland Air Force Base, which were merged on 1 October 2010 / 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 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



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repairman training were transferred to Sheppard in 1959

K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, Michigan - K.I. Sawyer AFB was located south of the city of Marquette, near the center of Michigan's Upper Peninsula / The base was first established as K.I. Sawyer County Airport in 1949, as Marquette County's municipal airport / It was named in honor of Kenneth Ingalls Sawyer, a former County Highway Department employee / On January 24, 1955, the U.S. Government signed a 99-year lease establishing K.I. Sawyer AFB at the site of the County Airport and agreed to joint use / However, the site was transferred to total Air Force control in 1956 and non-military operations ended in 1957 / In January 1956, K.I. Sawyer AFB became the home of the 473rd Fighter Group, a unit of the Eastern Air Defense Command, but in 1959, the 473rd FG became the 56th Fighter Group and was host for the Sault Ste. Marie Air Defense Sector and the 4042nd Strategic Wing, a Strategic Air Command unit / In February 1963, the 4042nd SW was discontinued and the 410th Bombardment Wing or 410th Bomb Wing was activated / In 1963, the Wing began conducting flying operations with the B-52H Stratofortress and the KC- 135 Stratotanker / With the disestablishment of SAC, the base came under control of the Air Combat Command in June 1992 / In 1993 the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission announced K.I. Sawyer was on the closure list, and in September 1995, K.I. Sawyer AFB officially closed

### *Miscellaneous:*

Kenneth Herkey graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School / Herkey worked a variety of jobs prior to entering the military / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Kenneth Herkey worked in the HVAC (Heating and Air Conditioning) field / Kenneth Herkey is a long time member and former Chaplain of American Legion Post #735 and is part of the Legion Color Guard

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:** **HERNICH**  
**JEAN**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

Jean Hernich honorably served in the United States Military / Jean Hernich 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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HEROD

NANCIE

M.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Nancie M.(nee Lehnus) Herod honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Nancie M.(nee Lehnus) Herod passed away on 18 August 2025 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HERRMANN**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:**

Joseph W. Herrmann honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Herrmann was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Herrmann worked for Hale NorthEastern as a Senior Decorator for 37 years / Joseph W. Herrmann passed away on 4 March 2026 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

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

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HERSHAN**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 211 STANTON STREET

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 27TH MARINES, G COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS 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:**

Lance Corporal William Hershman honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL William Hershman was deployed to Vietnam on 18 February 1968 as an Assault Amphibious Vehicle Crewman / LCPL William Hershman was Killed In Action on 15 March 1968 as a result of an explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Hershman was born in Brussels, Belgium / Hershman graduated from School 31 and attended Emerson Vocational High School / William Hershman was a former Buffalo Evening News carrier and was an altar boy at the Ukrainian Holy Trinity Orthodox Church / William Hershman was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

William Hershman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44e, Line 59

Marine Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) Crewman operate and maintain assault amphibious vehicles / They prepare the vehicle, complete maintenance and operate all components of the vehicle / The AAV Crewman



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assist with ship to shore movements of troops and equipment

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 27th Marine Regiment (27th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / They fought during the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II and again for a short time during the Vietnam War / The regiment was inactivated on 10 January 1946 at the end of World War II, after the surrender of Japan / The 27th Marines was again reactivated during the Vietnam War on 1 January 1966, but was mainly used as a pool for new replacements before they went overseas / The 1st Battalion based at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii was the only battalion with personnel assigned in 1966 / On 12 February 1968 in response to the Tet Offensive, the 27th Marine Regiment was deployed to Da Nang, South Vietnam / At the end of March 1968, 1/27th Marines was moved north to provide security of Route 1 between Huế and Phu Bai Combat Base and the protection of Tân Mỹ Base / While the regiment was preparing for its redeployment to the U.S. in August 1968 the Viet Cong launched their Phase III offensive and 1st Battalion participated in the defense of Da Nang Air Base / On 12 September 1968, the first planeload of Regiment Marines left for Okinawa and on 17 September 1968 the last of 1st Battalion, 27th Marines arrived in Hawaii

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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:** HERTEL

LAWRENCE L.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Lawrence A. Hertel honorably served in the United States Air Force / Hertel served in the Air Force Office of Security Investigations in South Korea, England and Washington, D.C.

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence Hertel graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Lawrence Hertel earned degrees from Erie Community College and the University at Buffalo / Hertel worked for Niagara Mohawk Power Corp (National Grid) for 28 years before retiring as a Customer Service Representative / Hertel later worked for several golf courses, including the Rothland Golf Course in Clarence Center / Lawrence A. Hertel passed away on 17 March 2024 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HESS

DONALD W.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1962

**Unit / Squadron:**

82ND AIRBORNE

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Donald W. Hess honorably served in the United States Army / Donald Hess was a paratrooper assigned to the 82nd Airborne

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Hess graduated from Kenmore High School and enlisted in the Army after graduation / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Hess was a successful Sales Engineer working in Buffalo and Rochester / Donald W. Hess passed away at the age of 87 years old on 18 March 2023

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into denied areas with a U.S. Department of Defense requirement to "respond to crisis contingencies anywhere in the world within 18 hours" / Based at Fort Bragg, 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HETZEL  
WAYNE

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Wayne Hetzel honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and the Vietnam War

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Wayne Hetzel was employed by the United States Postal Service / Wayne Hetzel passed away on 26 September 2022 at the age of 90 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HIAM**

**DANIEL**

**C.**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Daniel C. Hiam honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel Hiam was a Steamfitter with Local 22 / Hiam was a member of the Monsignor Nash Knights of Columbus / Daniel C. Hiam passed away on 13 December 2024 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HILBURGER**

**MICHAEL J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 101 KEYSTONE STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**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:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael J. Hilburger honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Hilburger was deployed to Vietnam on 15 July 1966 as an Infantrymen / SP4 Michael Hilburger was Killed In Action on 1 May 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered from a landmine in combat action in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Hilburger was drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1965 / Michael J. Hilburger was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Michael J. Hilburger is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 5

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

The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with



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the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

The 31st Infantry Division, also known as the "Dixie Division," was an infantry division of the United States Army National Guard / It was active almost continuously from 1917 to 1968 / The division saw service in both World War I and World War II, and was mobilized during the Korean War, although it was not sent overseas / The division was organized in 1917 during World War I from the national guardsmen of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, and deployed to France in September 1918, arriving weeks before the Armistice of 11 November that ended the war / It was mobilized in 1940 during World War II, and spent several years training in the United States In 1944 it was sent to the South-West Pacific Area, fighting in the New Guinea campaign and in the Battle of Mindanao / After the end of the war, the division was demobilized in December 1945 / Mobilized during the Korean War, the division served stateside at Camp Atterbury and Camp Carson / The 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Inf Division served in Vietnam from 8 April 1968 until departure on 12 October 1970

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

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HILL, JR

JAMES

W.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 334 HIGH STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**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 James Wallace Hill, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PVT James Hill was deployed to Vietnam on 16 April 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PVT James Hill was Killed In Action on 11 May 1968 from small arms fire during combat action with hostile forces in Hua Nghia Province, South Vietnam

**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. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and 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 / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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:*

James Hill was a 1967 graduate of East High School / Hill joined the U.S. Army in September 1967 / James Wallace Hill, Jr. was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

James Wallace Hill, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 58e, Line 22

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 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 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

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 / 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 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 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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: **HILLMAN**

**ROBERT L.**

Hometown:

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:

Service Notes:

Robert L. Hillman honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Hillman retired from the Carborundum company / Robert L. Hillman passed away on 25 September at the age of 87 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HILLOCK, SR.

LAWRENCE J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:**

Lawrence J. Hillock, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence Hillock retired from TRW in 2002 as a project manager / Hillock retired to Georgia and organized the local chapter of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association in Warner Robins, Georgia / Lawrence J. Hillock, Sr. passed away on 15 January 2021 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Parkway Memorial Gardens, Warner Robins, Georgia



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HINT**

**GARY**

**D.**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

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:

Gary D. Hint honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam for three tours

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Hint was a retired New York State Corrections Officer / Hint was a member of American Legion, Matthew Glab Post #1477 / Gary D. Hint passed away on 26 May 2023 at the age of 73 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HITRO JR.**

**BERNARD**

**G.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 35 ECKERT STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Bernard George Hitro, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Bernard Hitro was deployed to Vietnam on 7 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Bernard Hitro was Killed In Action on 10 January 1969 as a result of small arms fire during combat operations in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Corporal Hitro's unit had been sent out to gather details on a sighting of North Vietnamese troops / The mission was to get the enemy's location and strength level, but the soldiers were ambushed, and were vastly outnumbered, about 6 to 1, and surrounded / A radio call was made for helicopters to evacuate them, but because of the intensity of the firefight, the soldiers would have to fight their way back to a location where landings could occur / As they retreated, one of the platoon members was hit and CPL Hitro, despite heavy fire, carried the soldier back to a fire line that had been set up to hold off the enemy / At that point, a rocket propelled grenade hit Hitro's rifle and bounced onto his chest, where it exploded / A medic in the platoon, despite warnings that he too might be attacked, went to Hitro's aid, but was killed / CPL Bernard Hitro, Jr. died from injuries received during combat operations / CPL Hitro was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal for meritorious service as well as the Purple Heart

**Base Assignments:**



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Bernard Hitro was born in Exeter, Pennsylvania and moved to Buffalo / Hitro was a 1966 graduate of Riverside High School where he played football / Bernard Hitro was a member of the Riverside Athletic Club and the Tonawanda Boy's Club / Prior to entering the U.S. Army on 4 June 1968, Hitro worked for almost a year at R.P. Adams Co., a manufacturer of heat and filtration products in the Town of Tonawanda / Bernard George Hitro, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Bernard George Hitro, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35w, Line 65

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 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 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action



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against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

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

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



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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

Corporal Bernard George Hitro, Jr. was also awarded the following medals:

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOADLEY**

**RICHARD**

**M.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Richard M. "Dick" Hoadley honorably served in the United States Navy / Richard Hoadley served aboard a submarine

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Hoadley worked at General Motors (GM) for over 40 years / Richard M. "Dick" Hoadley passed away on 9 February 2025 at the age of 87 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOBOT**

**JOSEPH**

**F.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS RANGER (CV/CVA-61)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph F. Hobot honorably served in the United States Navy / Joseph Hobot served on the USS Ranger in 1957, the world's first "super" carrier and assigned to the Pacific Fleet

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Hobot earned a college degree in Business Administration / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Joseph Hobot worked as a Teller and Mortgage Credit Examiner at Liberty Bank in the 1960s, a Loan Management and Mortgage Credit Officer Marine Midland Bank in the 1970s, and then a Mortgage Credit Underwriter and an Asset & Project Manager with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the 1980s and through to his retirement / Hobot owned his own wedding invitation business, "Starlight Printing" / Joseph F. Hobot passed away on 25 April 2026 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The seventh USS Ranger (CV/CVA-61) was the third of four Forrestal-class supercarriers built for the United States Navy in the 1950's / Although all four ships of the class were completed with angled decks, Ranger had the distinction of being the first US carrier built from the beginning as an angled-deck ship / Commissioned in 1957, she served extensively in the Pacific, especially the Vietnam War, for which she earned 13 battle stars / Near the end of her career, she also served in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf / The USS Ranger was decommissioned in 1993, and was stored at Bremerton, Washington until March 2015 / She was then moved to Brownsville for scrapping, which was completed in November 2017



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HOCHADEL

JOHN

W.

**Hometown:** HOLLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John W. Hochadel honorably served in the United States Army National Guard / During his military career, Hochadel served as a Sharpshooter, Track Vehicle Mechanic and Cook

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Hochadel was employed by the Town of Holland Highway Department and was elected as the Town of Holland Highway Superintendent from 1982 through 1986 / Hochadel was a member of the Holland Fire Company / John W. Hochadel passed away on 26 April 2023 at the age of 87 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HODGES**

**CHARLES**

**B.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Charles B. Hodges honorably served in the United States Air Force and the Air Force Reserves

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Hodges was a 1955 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute / Hodges was employed by Cornell Aeronautical, followed by Wilson, Klaes, Brucker & Worden Mechanical/Electrical Engineering Consultants where he served as partner and President / Charles Hodges was named Engineer of the Year in 2005 by the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Erie-Niagara Chapter / Charles Hodges was a member and Past President of the Board of Directors at the Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo / Charles B. Hodges passed away on 26 December 2024 at the age of 90 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HODIL**  
**WINFRED**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

Winfred Hodil honorably served in the United States Military / Winfred Hodil was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOFFMAN**

**HOWARD**

**G.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1957

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Howard G. Hoffman honorably served in the United States Army / Howard Hoffman was stationed in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Howard Hoffman was employed by Moog Industries in East Aurora for 39 years / Howard Hoffman was a Stock Car racer / American Legion Post 362 was a member of American Legion Post #362, East Aurora / Howard G. Hoffman passed away on 15 March 2026 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOFFMAN**

**THOMAS J.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Thomas John Hoffman honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Thomas Hoffman was assigned as an Artillery Officer

After his Honorable Discharge from the regular U.S. Army, Captain Thomas Hoffman joined the U.S. Army Reserve from 1965 through 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Hoffman graduated from Bishop Fallon High School and Canisius College / Hoffman joined the Big E (Empire of America Bank) and became Senior Vice President / In 1992, Thomas Hoffman moved to Richmond, Virginia joining the Martin Agency as a Senior Vice President, returning to Amherst in 2000 / Thomas Hoffman was a charter member of the Glen Oak Golf Club / Thomas John Hoffman passed away on 20 March 2025 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

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

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons that launch munitions far beyond the range and power of infantry firearms / Early artillery development focused on the ability to breach defensive walls and fortifications during sieges, and led to heavy, fairly immobile siege engines / As technology improved, lighter, more mobile field artillery cannons developed for battlefield use / This development continues today; modern self-propelled



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

artillery vehicles are highly mobile weapons of great versatility generally providing the largest share of an army's total firepower / Originally, the word "artillery" referred to any group of soldiers primarily armed with some form of manufactured weapon or armor / Since the introduction of gunpowder and cannon, "artillery" has largely meant cannon, and in contemporary usage, usually refers to shell-firing guns, howitzers, and mortars (collectively called barrel artillery, cannon artillery or gun artillery) and rocket artillery

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOLL**

**GEORGE W.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 30 PRINCETON PLACE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 47TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**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:**

Corporal George William Holl honorably served with the United States Army / CPL George Holl was deployed to Vietnam on 15 July 1968 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / CPL George Holl was Killed In Action on 10 November 1968 from wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations in Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

CPL Holl was wounded after 4 months in Vietnam but recovered and went back to active duty

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George Holl was a 1965 graduate of Bishop Timon High School / Holl entered the U.S. Army in February 1968 / George William Holl was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

George William Holl is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39w, Line 44

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities



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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 9th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Reliables") is an inactive infantry division of the United States Army / It was created as the 9th Division during World War I, but never deployed overseas / In later years it was an important unit of the U.S. Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The 9th Division was reactivated on 1 February 1966, and arrived in South Vietnam on 16 December 1966 from Fort Riley, Kansas / On deployment the division was assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam where it commenced operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-31 May 1967) in Operation Palm Beach / Its area of operations was in the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta from 1967 to 1972 / Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled Delta, the Division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program / The Division's major units departed from South Vietnam on 27 August 1969 (HHC & 1st Brigade) to Hawaii; 27 August 1969 (2nd Brigade) to Fort Lewis, Washington; 12 October 1970 (3rd Brigade) to Fort Lewis / It was also activated as a peacetime readiness unit from 1947 to 1962 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and from 1972 to 1991 as an active-duty infantry division at Fort Lewis, Washington / The division was deactivated in December 1991

The 4th Infantry Division is a division of the United States Army based at Fort Carson, Colorado / The division was first activated in 1917 and has served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom / The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry is a battalion of the United States Army and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado

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



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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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOLLOWOOD**

**RICHARD A.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY A, 4TH BATTALION, 37TH ARMOR REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Richard A. Hollowood honorably served in the United States Army as a Armor Crewman

Richard Hollowood was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 28 May 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard A. Hollowood passed away on 1 April 2019

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 37th Armor is an armor (tank) regiment of the United States Army / It is remembered as the successor to the 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division, commanded by then Lieutenant Colonel Creighton Abrams (the namesake of the M1 Abrams) during World War II / The 37th Armor regiment landed on Utah Beach, Normandy, France on 13 July 1944 / The 37th fought in Brittany and the Battle of the Bulge / By April 1945 the 37th had driven deep into central Germany then marched south and drove into Czechoslovakia, where they were when the war ended on 6 May 1945 / During 1990 and 1991, the 37th Armor was alerted for deployment to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and deployed all of its personnel and equipment over 3,000 miles from an already forward deployed location, fought a major battle against a well equipped enemy over terrain they had never



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trained on and then redeployed the unit to its home station / In response to the Global War on Terror 37th Armor deployed to Iraq in 2003 and again in 2006 / During those deployments the unit was instrumental in the Battle of Karbala in 2004 and the Battle of Ramadi in 2006 / Additionally the unit was involved in direct combat action in Baghdad, Falluja, and the Ninewa Province / The 37th Armor was awarded the Presidential and Navy Unit citations due to these deployments

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:** **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 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOLTHAM, JR.**

**THOMAS**

**W.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Thomas William Holtham Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Holtham was a graduate of McKinley High School / Holtham worked for Decos Restaurant and went on to build a long and dedicated career with General Motors in Tonawanda, retiring after 31 years of service / Holtham was a member of Local UAW 774 / Thomas Holtham was a lifetime member and past Commander of the LT Nelson V. Ammerman Post #324 / Thomas William Holtham, Jr. passed away on 24 November 2025 at the age of 88 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HONSBERGER**

**GEORGE W.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE CENTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1959

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

George W. Honsberger honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George Honsberger retired from the Continental Can Company after 39 years of employment / Honsberger was a baseball player and baseball coach for the Town of Clarence for 38 years / George Honsberger was President of The Erie Niagara Baseball Association for 16 years / Honsberger is on the Clarence High School Baseball Wall of Fame, and is a member of the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame / The baseball field in his home town of Clarence Center bears his name-"GEORGE W. HONSBERGER FIELD" / George W. Honsberger passed away on 22 May 2025 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at Clarence Center Cemetery, Clarence, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOOLIHAN**

**JON**

**P.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Jon P. Hoolihan honorably served in the United States Air Force / Jon Hoolihan was assigned as a Heavy Equipment Operator and Teacher

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jon Hoolihan graduated from our Lady of Victory and Lackawanna High School / Jon Hoolihan later moved to Las Vegas where he built a successful construction excavator business in Nevada / Jon P. Hoolihan passed away on 12 January 2023 at the age of 78 years of age



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOOPER**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

James Hooper honorably served in the United States Military / James Hooper was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOOPER**

**THOMAS**

**P.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Thomas P. Hooper honorably served in the United States Air Force / CPT Thomas Hooper retired from the Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Hooper graduated from St. Francis High School in 1966 / Thomas P. Hooper passed away on 18 March 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HOPCUS

CONRAD J.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Conrad J. Hopcus honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Conrad J. Hopcus passed away on 26 July 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HOPKINS

VERNON

M.

**Hometown:** WEST FALLS

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Vernon Merle Hopkins honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Vernon Hopkins was an employee of New York Telephone for 29 years / Hopkins was a 43-year member of Mt. Vernon Lodge #263 / Vernon Merle Hopkins passed away on 11 October 2025 at the age of 83 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HORAN, JR.**

**THOMAS J.**

**Hometown:** COLDEN

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas J. Horan, Jr. honorably served in the United States Armed Forces

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas J. Horan, Jr. passed away on 8 November 2025 at the age of 84 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HORNUNG**

**MICHAEL**

**F.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Michael F. Hornung honorably served in the United States Navy / Michael Hornung was assigned as a Dental Corpsman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Hornung attended St. Mark School and Canisius High School / Prior to military service, Hornung attended West Virginia University / Michael Hornung was a competitive ice skater with the Buffalo Skating Club / Hornung spent his career in various sales professions before retiring from Carpet Collection / Michael Hornung Mike was the former President of the Western New York Floor Covering Association and a Life Trustee of The Buffalo Seminary / Michael F. Hornung passed away on 26 February 2026 at the age of 80 years old

The Dental Corpsman in the U.S. Army is a specialized role within the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) / They are responsible for ensuring that each soldier is in optimal oral health and prepared to deploy without becoming a non-combat dental casualty / The Dental Corpsman's secondary mission is to provide dental healthcare to eligible beneficiaries of the military community / During wartime, the Dental Corpsman's mission includes conserving the fighting strength by preserving and restoring oral health and function, providing emergency and essential dental care, and assisting in the emergency medical management of combat casualties / The Dental Corpsman also supports casualty identification through dental forensic identification operations



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOSKING  
FLOYD**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**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:**

Floyd Hosking honorably served in the United States Military / Floyd Hosking was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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:** **HOSMER**  
**DAVID D,**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

David D. Hosmer honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Hosmer was a 1966 graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / David Hosmer was a member of the Retired Veteran Committee and the Past Union President for the 107th Air Guard at the Niagara Falls Base / Hosmer volunteered at the Blasdell Food Bank / David D. Hosmer passed away on 17 November 2022 at the age of 74 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOSTETTLER**

**ALAN A.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO3

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Alan A. Hostettler honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Alan Hostettler served as a Navy Seabee and served in Vietnam for 21 months as a Construction Mechanic

PO3 Alan Hostettler was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 13 June 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Alan A. Hostettler passed away on 16 March 2019 at the age of 70 years old and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Naval Construction Battalion 5 (NMCB Five) was commissioned on 25 May 1942 at Camp Allen, Virginia / During World War II, the Battalion provided construction on the Midway Atoll, Sand Island, the French Frigate Shoals, Canton Island, Johnston Atoll and the Palmyra atoll / During the Korean War, the Seabees leveled a mountain to make way for a nearly 2-mile long runway at Cubi Point in the Philippines / During the Vietnam War, from 1965 to 1972, NMCB FIVE made six consecutive deployments to Vietnam / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand.[2] The project there was the construction of Nam Phong Air Base / NMCB FIVE was deployed to Afghanistan from February to August in 2009 to work on Camp Leatherneck / NMCB FIVE was awarded several Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations while deployed to Vietnam

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 / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HOUCK**

**KENNETH F.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (KOREA)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Kenneth F. Houck honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Kenneth Houck was assigned to the U.S. Army Ordnance Branch as an Engine & Powertrain Repairman / SP5 Houck had 12 months of foreign service in Korea in support of operations in Vietnam

Specialist Fifth-Class Kenneth F. Houck was honorably discharged from active duty on 2 March 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth Houck was a longtime member of the former Harvey D. Morin Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 in West Seneca / Kenneth F. Houck passed away on 24 March 2023 at the age of 73 years old

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission is to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility materiel during peace and war to provide combat power to the U.S. Army

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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:** **HOUGHTON**

**DENNIS M.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**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:**

Dennis M. Houghton honorably served in the United States Navy / Dennis Houghton was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis M. Houghton passed away on 13 February 2010 at the age of 69 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery, Farnham, New York

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



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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: **HOUT**

**ALBERT**

**R.**

Hometown: BUFFALO

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:

Service Notes:

Albert R. Hout honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Albert R. Hout passed away on 3 April 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HRIZAK**

**DAVID**

**B.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**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:**

David Bruce Hrizak honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Hrizak was a Senior United States Customs Inspector, a Firearms Instructor and a member of the Blasdell Rod and Gun Club / David Hrizak was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Weber Post #898 / David Bruce Hrizak passed away on 25 November 2025



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **HUBERT**

**RAYMOND R.**

**Hometown:** SPRINGVILLE

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Raymond Richard Hubert honorably served in the United States Air Force / Raymond Hubert was stationed in Korea and Japan

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond Hubert was a member of American Legion Post #431 / Raymond Richard Hubert passed away on 29 September 2025 at the age of 93 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HUGHES

DONALD E.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Donald Edward Hughes honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Hughes was a guidance counselor for Grand Island School for many years before his retirement in 1996 / Hughes retired to Tampa Bay, Florida in 1997 / Donald Edward Hughes passed away 3 December 2015 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HUGHES, SR.

KENNETH S.

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**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:

**Service Notes:**

Kenneth D. Hughes, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / Kenneth Hughes performed the duties of a Medic during his enlistment

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth D. Hughes, Sr. passed away on 8 May 2025 at the age of 86 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HUNLEY, JR.

WILLIE L.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION RIBBON

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

MERITORIOUS MAST (3 AWARDS)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (PISTOL)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (2 AWARDS)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Willie L. Hunley, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps for 10 years / SSGT Willie Hunley was stationed in Okinawa

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Willie L. Hunley, Jr. passed away on 28 August 2024 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

The Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) is a mid-level unit award of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Army awards units the Army MUC for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement or service in combat or non-combat, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps award units the Navy MUC for valorous or meritorious achievement or service in combat or non-combat, and the U.S. Coast Guard awards units the Coast Guard MUC for valorous or meritorious achievement or service not involving combat

The Meritorious Mast is a formal and ceremonial acknowledgment recognizing an enlisted person being awarded a Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation, or a personal decoration whenever personal performance is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty by a demonstration of exceptional industry, judgment, or initiative



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The Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR)[5] is a service award of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps / The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is granted to any member of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps assigned to a deployable unit (e.g., a ship (including submarines), aircraft squadron, air wing or air group, detachment, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Air Ground Task Force, or other unit type that operates away from its assigned homeport) and is forward-deployed for a period of either 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days each within a given 12-month period; or 6 months stationed overseas in a forward deployed location / When a ship's crew qualifies for the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the ship is authorized to paint and display the ribbon and award stars on the port and starboard side of the bulwark aft to designate the number of deployments conducted throughout the commissioned life of the ship since August 1974

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 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:** **HUNTER**  
TIMOTHY J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Second Class Timothy J. Hunter honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Timothy Hunter retired from the Social Security Administration as a Systems Analyst / Timothy J. Hunter passed away on 31 October 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HURD

PETER

G.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** QM3

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS DAMATO (DD 871)

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Quartermaster 3rd Class Petty Officer Peter Grant Hurd honorably served in the United States Navy and assigned to the Dominican Republic

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter Hurd was the former owner and president of EPCO Manufacturing / Peter Hurd was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 and former American Legion Commander of Erie County / Peter Grant Hurd passed away on 12 July 2022 at the age of 77 years old

USS Damato (DD-871) was a Gearing-class destroyer of the United States Navy / She was named for Corporal Anthony P. Damato USMC (1922–1944), who was killed in action during the Battle of Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor / The Damato was commissioned on 27 April 1946 / From September to November 1950, Damato had her first tour of duty with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, and during the next year joined in hunter-killer operations in the South Atlantic / Damato served with the Pacific Fleet from June 1967 until February 1968 / On 12 and 13 December 1967, Damato conducted naval gunfire support (NGFS) missions while in the Saigon River, Vietnam / The USS Damato was decommissioned on 30 September 1980 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register / Damato was transferred to Pakistan as Tippu Sultan, on 1 October 1980 and scrapped in 1994

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



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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

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:** **HUSSAR**

**JAMES R.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY E, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, 9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

GOOD CONDUCT

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal James R. Hussar honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL James Hussar was deployed to Vietnam for 2 years as a Rifleman where he was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade/ CPL James Hussar was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service in a combat zone on 18 March 1968 / CPL Hussar was also awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

CPL James Hussar was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps on 13 March 1973

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Hussar was a member of the American Legion Matthew Glab Post #1477 and Veterans of Foreign Wars / James R. Hussar passed away on 7 April 2018 at the age of 68 years old

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, 4th Marines (2/4th Marines) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / The battalion, nicknamed the Magnificent Bastards from the Vietnam War, is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and is a part of the 4th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division / 2nd Battalion, 9th



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Marines (2/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, the unit played an instrumental role in the defeat of the Japanese forces in the Battles of Guam and Iwo Jima during World War II / The battalion distinguished itself in the defense of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War

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 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 / 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

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



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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:** HUTCHINSON

HAROLD J.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Harold J. "Hutch" Hutchinson honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Harold Hutchinson was a long time member of the Depew Lions Club, receiving the Melvin Jones Award and was a longtime member and past trustee of St. John Lutheran Church in Depew / Harold J. "Hutch" Hutchinson passed away on 4 January 2026 at the age of 87 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HUTCHISON

CRAIG A.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:** PO2

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT OPERATION INSIGNIA

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 2nd-Class Craig A. Hutchison honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 Craig Hutchison was assigned to the Navy Seabees as a Builder and a Diver Second Class / PO2 Hutchison was deployed for 2-1/2 years of foreign service, with the majority in the Republic of South Vietnam

PO2 Craig Hutchison was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on 30 September 1969

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Craig Hutchison was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, and Moose Lodge / Craig A. Hutchison passed away on 26 September 2022 at the age of 75 years old

Navy builders are like civilian construction workers. They are skilled carpenters, plasterers, roofers, cement finishers, asphalt workers, masons, and painters. They build and repair all types of structures including: piers, bridges, towers, schools, offices, houses, and other buildings

United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the U.S. Naval Construction Force (NCF) / Naval Construction Battalions were conceived of as replacements for civilian construction companies in combat zones after the attack on Pearl Harbor / At the time civilian contractors had roughly 70,000 men working U.S. Navy contracts overseas / International law made it illegal for civilian workers to resist an attack and by doing so would classify them as guerrillas and could lead to summary execution / With



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roots dating back to World War II, the Seabees were formally established on 5 March 1942, to meet the Navy's growing need to construct bases, build airfields, conduct underwater construction and build roads, bridges and other support facilities while providing protection for themselves and those around them as part of the war effort / The Seabees were deployed to Vietnam twice in the 1950s to survey and map the roads / Seabee teams (501 and 502) arrived in January 1963 as the first Seabees of the Vietnam War / The last battalion withdrew late 1971 with the last Seabee teams out a year later / When it was over, 137 Seabee teams were sent to Vietnam and had built 15 CB camps and deployed 22 battalions / In the over seven decades since its founding, Seabees have gone on to serve in most major U.S. conflicts

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 Unit Commendation Ribbon is awarded to Navy and Marine Corps units that distinguish themselves through feats of valor in combat or exceptional service in non-combat circumstances / It is given for outstanding heroism in combat against a hostile foreign force or for extremely meritorious service / The award is comparable to the Bronze Star for individual actions / It is distinct from the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and is awarded by SECNAV, CNO, or CMC

The Cold War Service Medal Act authorizes a service medal for those in the military between September 1945 and December 1991 who served on active duty for 24 consecutive months during the Cold War; were deployed outside of the continental U.S. for a period of at least 30 days during the Cold War; or were a member of a reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold 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

The Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation Insignia is a miniature 5/16 inch bronze United States Marine Corps emblem that may be authorized by the Secretary of the Navy for wear on specific campaign, expeditionary, and service medal ribbons issued to United States Navy sailors attached to and on duty with Fleet Marine Force (FMF) units during combat operations and sailors on duty with Navy units attached to and operating with Fleet Marine Force units while under Marine Corps operational control during combat operations / The device was instituted in 1953 with the Navy and Marine Corps Award Manual