



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BIALKOWSKI

JOHN J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 46 EASTWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CN

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 11 (NMCB11)

3RD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION (NC) BRIGADE (BDE), UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM (USNAVFORV)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY 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:**

Constructionman John Joseph Bialkowski honorably served in the United States Navy / CN John Bialkowski served with the Seabees and was deployed to Vietnam in April 1967 as an Electrician / Seabee CN John L. Bialkowski was Killed in Action on 24 June 1967 from enemy fire, causing his truck to crash, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The battalion of CN John Bialkowski was based at Dong Ha which was about ten miles from the DMZ and North Vietnam where his battalion was shelled many times with artillery and rockets / On 24 June 1967, CN John Bialkowski was part of a four-man trash truck detail dumping trash at Don Ha Combat Base dump when he was run over by a dump truck, reportedly during enemy shelling of the base / He was fatally injured in the incident

Bialkowski trained as a Construction Electrician (Power Lineman).

**Base Assignments:**

Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois - Home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy



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Davisville, Rhode Island - was formerly the home of the Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center, which housed the United States Navy's SeaBees / The Navy acquired the property in 1939 and built Naval Air Station Quonset Point / In 1942, adjoining properties were developed for training Seabees, including the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Davisville / After World War II, the Naval Air Station remained in operation, but the NCBC was inactive until 1951, when the site was designated Headquarters, NCBC / The Naval Air Station was decommissioned in 1974.

## *Miscellaneous:*

John Bialkowski was a graduate of West Seneca Senior High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute before joining the Navy in December 1965 / John Joseph Bialkowski was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

John Joseph Bialkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 56

A Seabee is a member of the United States Naval Construction Forces (NCF) / The word "Seabee" comes from the initials "CB", which in turn comes from the term "Construction Battalion" / The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and accomplishing countless other construction projects in a wide variety of military theaters dating back to World War II

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 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



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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 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 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:** **BORYSZEWSKI**

**STEPHEN J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 51 TINDLE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORP.

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

H CO, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST FIRST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Stephen J. Boryszewski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Stephen Boryszewski was deployed to Vietnam on 10 November 1968 as a Rifleman / LCpl Boryszewski was Killed in Action on 10 April 1969 from fragmentation wounds suffered when an enemy land mine exploded in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Boryszewski was a 1967 graduate of South Park High School and enlisted into the Marine Corps in May 1968 / Stephen J. Boryszewski was 19 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Stephen J. Boryszewski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



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VVM Wall, Panel 27w, Line 47

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, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operational requirements

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 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



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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 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 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

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 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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**Name:** **BOSSMAN**

**PETER R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 84 BRIANWOOD DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** HN3

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** MIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

USNAVFORV, HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON 363, MARINE AIR GROUP 16

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AVIATOR BADGE NAVY

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Hospitalman Third-Class Peter Robert Bossman honorably served in the United States Navy / HN Peter Bossman was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman / HN3 Peter Bossman was declared Missing in Action on 25 September 1966 when the helicopter he was onboard was hit by enemy groundfire and crashed in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 25 September 1966 a UH-34D (BuNo 148776) belonging to HMM-161 launched on a night medical evacuation mission in support of a Marine unit that had suffered casualties and was engaged in heavy combat along Highway 9 in the jungle covered mountains during Operation Prairie / The weather was good with a very bright full moon / Four Marine aircrewmembers from HMM-161 and a Navy Corpsman (HM3 Peter Bossman) assigned to HMM-265 were aboard the aircraft / HM3 Bossman's UH-34 helicopter was hit in flight by an artillery shell, broke up, and crashed in flames / The incident was witnessed by crewmen in the escorting gunships from a distance of about 75 yards / Ground troops were able to reach the aircraft wreckage and were able to recover two badly burned bodies but no other remains / Although assault, medevac, and gunship helicopters regularly flew in areas being subjected to friendly artillery fire, this incident is the only documented case of a Marine helicopter being struck in flight by friendly fire / The crew of the UH34 was listed as killed, body not recovered including HN3 Peter Bossman who is listed as Missing In Action

Highway 9 was a primary east-west road that ran from the South Vietnamese-Laos border nearly to the



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coastline where it intersected Highway 1, the primary north-south road that paralleled the coastline nearly the entire length of Vietnam / Highway 9 became a major part of the North Vietnamese infiltration route once they crossed into South Vietnam from the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail

## *Base Assignments:*

Great Lakes Training Center - home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy

## *Miscellaneous:*

Peter Bossman graduated from the West Seneca Central High School in 1962 and enlisted in the Navy in 1963 / Peter Robert Bossman was 21 years of age at the time of his passing

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Bossman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Peter Robert Bossman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 12

Hospitalmen (HN) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

One of the earliest helicopters employed in Southeast Asia, and the primary Marine Corps helicopter used during the early years of the war, was the Sikorsky UH34D Seahorse / This aircraft was already quite old when they arrived in the battle zone, however, both the US and South Vietnamese military found them to be extremely effective throughout the war

SNAVFORV (United States Naval Forces Vietnam) / During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Navy deployed various units to support operations in the region / One such unit was Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 363 (HM-363), which was part of Marine Air Group 16 / Their mission was to conduct mine countermeasures using helicopters, specifically the MH-53E Sea Dragon / These helicopters were designed to detect and neutralize naval mines, ensuring safe passage for ships and other naval vessels

Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-16 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force



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commanders / Marine Helicopter Transport Group 16 (MAG(HR)-16) was commissioned on 1 March 1952 at Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California / MAG-16 was the first helicopter group established in the Marine Corps

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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

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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:** 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

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



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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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

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:** **KARN**

**WAYNE**

**D.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 22 LARKWOOD ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

**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 Wayne Douglas Karn honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Wayne Karn was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Wayne Karn was Killed in Action on 20 June 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

In June 1967, with termination of Operation UNION, the Battalion retained its forward Command Post on Hill 51 and continued to conduct combat operations in the Que Son District of Quang Nam Province / During a security patrol on Route 514 west of Hill 51 near the village of Lanh Thoung several rounds of sniper fire rang out, LCPL Wayne Karn was struck and killed by the hostile fire

LCPL Karn was a Machine Gunner and served in Cuba for four months prior to being deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training



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Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is located on the Southern California coast, in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II and was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the west coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars with approximately 200,000 Marines passing through the base on their way to the Far East / In 1975 Camp Pendleton was the first military base in the U.S. to provide accommodations for Vietnamese evacuees in Operation New Arrivals; over 50,000 refugees came to the base in the largest humanitarian airlift in history / Camp Pendleton is the home for I Marine Expeditionary Force and various training commands

### *Miscellaneous:*

Wayne Karn graduated from West Seneca Central High School in 1964 / After graduation, Karn was a dental technician for the Agthe Dental Laboratory / Prior to being drafted into the Marine Corps on 22 March 1966, Karn was a truck driver for Fisher-Price Toys / Wayne Douglas Karn was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Wayne Douglas Karn is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 25

Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June



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1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

The I Marine Expeditionary Force is a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) of the United States Marine Corps primarily composed of the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 1st Marine Logistics Group / It is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton / I Marine Expeditionary Force is the largest of the three MEFs in the Fleet Marine Force and is often referred to as the "Warfighting MEF" for its consistent involvement and contributions in major armed conflicts

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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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 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



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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:** **KRONTHALER**

**PAUL J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 139 ALLENDALE ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH AIR CALVARY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP 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:**

Private First Class Paul John Kronthaler honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Paul Kronthaler was deployed to Vietnam on 31 March 1969 as a Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / PFC Paul Kronthaler was Killed In Action on 6 May 1969 from bullet wounds sustained from enemy gunfire at Firebase Carolyn, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of May 6, 1969, Camp Carolyn, a remote U.S. artillery base near the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, was attacked by an estimated 300 North Vietnamese Army regulars who charged out of the bamboo forest surrounding the camp in a desperate attempt to overrun the position / The NVA broke through the barbed wire defenses at two points and occupied and held six of the perimeter bunkers and one of the gun positions for nearly two hours / The assault was preceded by a heavy barrage of rocket and mortar fire / After penetrating the perimeter, the enemy ran at the American bunkers, hurling grenades and satchel charges and firing AK-47's / The force of the attack drove out the U.S. soldiers, and the dugouts were immediately occupied by the NVA / The charge was stopped when the Americans shot holes into the fuel drums near the bunkers and ignited flowing rivers of gas to create a flaming barrier, which effectively blocked further enemy penetration / From that point, the Americans counterattacked with all available personnel, the officers involved being killed at the head of their troops / Artillerymen, supply and signal personnel, and engineers fought and died as emergency infantry reserves / Their counterattacks were hurled against both enemy penetrations, but the most violent fighting occurred on the northern side of Carolyn, where a seesaw battle



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aged for possession of the 155mm howitzer position / During the course of the battle, this weapon exchanged hands 3 times in hand-to-hand fighting decided at close range with rifles and E-tools (entrenching tools, or shovels) / Another light howitzer section was caught in an enemy crossfire between a heavy machine gun and rifles until the U.S. artillerymen managed to turn their lowered muzzle and pump "Beehive" flechettes (anti-personnel weapon) into the enemy / All enemy automatic weapon fire against the howitzer was instantly silenced / As Cavalry counterattacks continued, the Americans reestablished the perimeter, and the enemy force began withdrawing, breaking contact at 6:00 AM / The action against Carolyn resulted in 10 U.S. killed, 62 wounded / Enemy losses were 101 killed and 29 captured / The lost Americans included Private First-Class Paul John Kronthaler

PFC Paul Kronthaler was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Paul Kronthaler was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central School and had received his Bachelor's Degree from Brockport State College in June 1968, prior to joining the Army in October 1968 / Paul John Kronthaler was 22 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Paul John Kronthaler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 12

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 8th Infantry Regiment was constituted as an infantry regiment on 5 July 1838 in the Regular Army / The 8th Infantry is also known as the "Fighting Eagles", is an infantry regiment in the United States Army / The 8th Infantry participated in the Mexican War, American Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Moro Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, and Iraq Campaign / During Operation Wayne Grey at Landing Zone Brace 3 March 1969 in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion Company "A" had at least 21 fatalities

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / Based at Fort Hood, Texas, the 1st Cavalry was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more 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



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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

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:** **MONIN**

**FRANCIS**

**G.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 3407 CLINTON STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, F COMPANY

USS ESSEX (CV/CVA/CVS-9)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Francis George Monin honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Francis Monin was deployed to Vietnam / Corporal Francis Monin was Killed In Action on 5 July 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam / CPL Monin was a rifleman and had arrived for his tour duty in Vietnam one month prior to his death

Following the 3-4 July 1967 enemy attack on the Nong Son outpost south of the An Hoa Combat Base overlooking the Thu Bon River, the enemy continued to probe the Marines positions / Both Company "F" on the outpost and Company "E" that was located half way to the top of the mountain / On July 5, Company "F" was hit with small arms fire and several hand grenades resulting in CPL Francis Monin being killed by the hostile rifle fire

CPL Monin was stationed aboard the the USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) prior to receiving orders for duty in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Francis Monin was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central High School / Monin enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 6 November 1964 / Francis George Monin was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Francis George Monin is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23e, Line 13

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

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion 5th Marines (2/5 or "Two Five") is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps consisting of approximately 800 marines and sailors / They are based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and fall under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion has seen combat in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War and has deployed many times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current War on Terror / 2/5 is the most highly decorated battalion in the Marine Corps, and their motto, "Retreat, Hell!", comes from the French trenches of World War I, when a Marine officer named Lloyd W. Williams was advised by a French officer to retreat and replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" / In April 1966, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and served there until 1971 / During this time, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines participated in combat operations at Hue, Que Sơn, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Phu Loc / Immediately after their return to Camp Pendleton in 1971, the battalion joined Operation New Arrivals, the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States

The USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) was an aircraft carrier and the lead ship of the 24-ship Essex class built for the



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United States Navy during World War II / She was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name / Commissioned on 31 December 1942, Essex participated in several campaigns in the World War II Pacific Theater of Operations, earning the Presidential Unit Citation and 13 battle stars / Decommissioned shortly after the end of the war, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), eventually becoming an antisubmarine aircraft carrier (CVS) / In her second career, she served mainly in the Atlantic, playing a role in the Cuban Missile Crisis / She also participated in the Korean War, earning four battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation / She was the primary recovery carrier for the Apollo 7 space mission / Essex was decommissioned on 30 June 1969 at Boston Navy Yard / She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 June 1973 and sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 1 June 1975 / Essex was scrapped at Kearny, New Jersey

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **OWCZARCZAK**

**MELVIN J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 75 CIRCLE END DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 2LT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 321ST ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Second Lieutenant Melvin Joseph Owczarczak honorably served in the United States Army / 2nd LT Melvin Owczarczak was deployed to Vietnam on 20 June 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 2LT Owczarczak was Killed in Action on 1 September 1968 from a booby trap set by the enemy in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

2nd LT Owczarczak was wounded during combat operations along the coastal plain between the City of Hue and Vin Loc Island on the South China Sea / He was evacuated to a Navy hospital ship, "Repose", but the injury was fatal and 2LT Owczarczak died of his wounds

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak received his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1967 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and completed artillery training at Ft Sill Oklahoma in the Spring of 1968

LT Owczarczak had served in Vietnam less than three months and was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania - A U.S. Army post primarily located in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania and served as a National Guard Training Center / During the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the Vietnam War, Fort Indiantown Gap served as one of the largest Reserve Officers Training Corps summer camps for the U.S.



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## Army

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars / Ft. Sill serves as the home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Fires Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / In 1963 the 1st Aerial Artillery Group (Provisional) was organized to test equipping CH-34 helicopters with rocket pods attached to each side. The rockets converted a transport aircraft, an easy target in most combat situations, into a sophisticated flying weapon capable of direct or indirect fires. It was the ancestor to the Cheyenne and Long Bow attack helicopters of today

### *Miscellaneous:*

Melvin Owczarczak was a 1961 graduate of St. Francis High School and graduated in 1967 from St. Bonaventure University with a degree in Mathematics / Owczarczak also operated a radio station on the St. Bonaventure campus / Melvin Joseph Owczarczak was 25 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 45w, Line 19

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

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

The 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army and trained for air assault operations / it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" and is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / During World War II, the 101st was renowned 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, perhaps most famously, its action during the Battle of the Bulge around the city of Bastogne, Belgium / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969

The 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (1-321st FAR) is an inactive field artillery battalion of the United States Army / The battalion served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror with the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions, and with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade / 1st Battalion, 321st



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Artillery (1-321) deployed to Vietnam attached to the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from 12 – 17 December 1967 / the battalion supported Operations Manchester, San Angelo and Atalla / From 10–11 January 1968, the battalion fired 1,935 rounds in support of a 25th Infantry Division fire support base, resulting in a large number of enemy killed / During its first two months in Vietnam, the battalion fired 19,150 rounds / On 22 November 1969, four howitzers from Battery A, accompanied by three howitzers from Battery B, 2-11 Arty, moved to FSB Bradley for a raid / The Battery A element fired 514 rounds against 65 targets before returning to LZ Sally / The raid destroyed 17 bunkers, six huts, three fighting positions and two bridges; caused two secondary fires; and interdicted five infiltration routes / Battery A returned to LZ Sally on 10 January 1970 and moved again to FSB Strike on 12 January 1970 and remained there until 25 January 1970 / The battalion was officially inactivated in March 2014, and its firing batteries were distributed throughout the 82nd Airborne Division

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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** RAUSCH

ROBERT E.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** MAJOR

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

12TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, 460TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING, 7TH AIR FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Major Robert E. Rausch honorably served in the United States Air Force / Major Robert Rausch was a Pilot and Navigator and was Killed in Action on 16 April 1970 over Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 16 April 1970, an RF-4C Phantom with a two man crew of Major Ayers and Captain Robert E. Rausch departed Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon to conduct reconnaissance along the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Vietnam as well as the adjacent area of Savannakhet Province, Laos / They refueled in flight and advised their controller that they were heading north to another target area / The new target area was known to be a high threat area with 37mm and other anti-aircraft weapons / They were last reported over Savannakhet

Province but did not return from their mission and were declared missing in action / During the period he was reported missing, Robert E. Rausch was promoted to the rank of Major

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Major Robert E. Rausch was 35 years of age at the time of his death

In the first four full months of operation in Southeast Asia, crews of the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron



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flew 2,014 combat sorties against pinpoint, strip, and area cover targets in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Laos. Approximately two-thirds of these were flown at night / Continuous information on enemy supply movements, troop concentrations, and fortifications was obtained from aerial photography taken by the 12th / In addition, photography taken by the unit was used in bomb damage assessment, base defense planning, and enemy air defense site detection / The 12th flew more than 26,000 combat sorties and 53,000 hours over a 5-year period. This was more than in both World Wars and Korea combined

The Phantom, used by Air Force, Marine and Navy air wings, served a multitude of functions including fighter-bomber and interceptor, photo and electronic surveillance. The two man aircraft was extremely fast (Mach 2), and had a long range (900 - 2300 miles, depending on stores and mission type). The F4 was also extremely maneuverable and handled well at low and high altitudes. Most pilots considered it one of the "hottest" planes around

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 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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

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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:** **ROZELL**

**EDWARD A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 79 FLOHR AVENUE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS.

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

A COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Edward Arnold Rozell honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Edward Rozell was deployed to Vietnam on 30 September 1969 as a Rifleman / LCPL Edward Rozell was Killed in Action on 31 January 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during a battle with Viet Cong forces near Da Nang, in the province of Quang Nam, South Vietnam

LCPL Edward Arnold Rozell served with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force / Alpha Company was on a combat mission 6 kilometers south southeast of the Tuy Loan Bridge when the company encountered NVA hostile forces / Edward died as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds to the body when an enemy mine detonated near the Tuy Loan Bridge

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

Edward Rozell attended West Seneca High School prior to enlisting in the Marine Corp in January 1969 / Edward Arnold Rozell was 18 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at St Mathews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Edward Arnold Rozell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 87

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

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / They returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

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 / It consisted of both the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) / By the end of 1966, the two Marine divisions of III MAF were fighting two separate wars. In the north, the 3d Marine Division fought a more or less conventional campaign while the 1st Marine Division took over the counter-guerrilla operations in the populous south / the III Marine Amphibious Forces participated in the Vietnam War from May 1965 through April 1971 operating from Quang Tri, Thua



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Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **STERLACE**

**ROBERT**

**A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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:* VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Robert A. Sterlace honorably served in the United States Military and was deployed to Vietnam (NO OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIDOMSKI**

**DANIEL**

**A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 3720 SENECA STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

AMERICAL DIVISION, 6TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, HSB

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant (1LT) Daniel A. Widomski honorably served in the United States Army / 1LT Daniel Widomski was deployed to Vietnam on 29 September 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 1LT Daniel Widomski was Killed In Action on 26 February 1969 from wounds received during enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 26 February 1969, during a combat operation 1LT Widomski was assigned as the Artillery Forward Observer with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry when elements of the unit became engaged with the enemy 10 kilometers southwest of the Quang Ngai airfield / During the fire fight that followed 1LT Daniel Widomski was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

Lt. Widomski attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill and began his tour of duty in South Vietnam in August 1968 where he was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars / Ft. Sill serves as the home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Fires Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / In 1963 the 1st Aerial Artillery Group (Provisional) was



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organized to test equipping CH-34 helicopters with rocket pods attached to each side. The rockets converted a transport aircraft, an easy target in most combat situations, into a sophisticated flying weapon capable of direct or indirect fires. It was the ancestor to the Cheyenne and Long Bow attack helicopters of today

## *Miscellaneous:*

Daniel A. Widomski was a graduate of St. Stanislaus Parochial School in 1959 , Bishop Ryan High School and the State University at Buffalo / Widomski enlisted in the Army in August 1966 / Daniel A. Widomski was 22 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel A. Widomski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 75

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

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

The Americal Division was an infantry division of the United States Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The division was activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia / In the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, the United States had hurriedly sent a task force to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II / The new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" / This was unusual, as with the exception of the Philippine Division, all other U.S. divisions were known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division, but was rarely referred to as such, even on official orders / During the Vietnam War the division had a mixed record / It combined participation in numerous battles and campaigns / The division suffered a tactical defeat in the early morning of 28 March 1971, when Vietcong sapper commandos successfully infiltrated FSB Mary Ann / The attack destroyed key infrastructure, as well as killing 33 and wounding 83 Americans / The division was deactivated following its withdrawal from South Vietnam in November 1971

The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery was originally organized on 1 June 1917 in the Regular Army at Douglas, Arizona as Battery F, 11th Field Artillery, later reassigned to the 6th Division / The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on 19 December 1967 as a unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade / From the time of arrival in the Republic of Vietnam the men of the "On Time" 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery took part in six major campaigns / The biggest and most successful operation was Vernon Lake II (2 November 1968 through 28 February 1969). The operation was conducted in an area which preliminary intelligence indicated was a massive VC/NVA resupply and consolidation region / Supporting fire from the guns of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery combined with the efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade made Vernon Lake II the most successful operation ever undertaken in the



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## 11th Brigade area of operation

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 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:** ZIMPFER

FRED

C.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 5303 SENECA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

AERO RIFLE PLATOON, F TROOP, 8TH CAVALRY, AMERICAL DIV,

**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 Fred Charles Zimpfer honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Fred Zimmer was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Fred Zimpfer was Killed in Action on 15 February 1970 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 15 February 1970, an enemy bunker complex was discovered in the Tien Phuoc District of Quang Tin Province at the end of Route 586, some 22 kilometers west of Tam Ky / During the engagement with the enemy, PFC Fred Zimpfer was killed by cross fire by friendly troops during the attack on the fortified positions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Fred Charles Zimpfer was 26 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Fred Charles Zimpfer is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 17



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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 main mission of the Aero Rifle Platoon, a Recon element, was to perform ground reconnaissance of areas that the scout ships cannot check out by air / They were not a main fighting force and only about 32 soldiers are inserted at any one time, although they could handle a small numbers of Viet Cong / Anything of a larger size would have to be dealt with by a regular infantry company which would be brought in by an Assault Helicopter Company / Another function of the Aero Rifle Platoon was to secure any of downed aircraft until it could be extracted

The 8th Cavalry Regiment is a regiment of the United States Army formed in 1866 during the American Indian Wars / The 8th Cavalry continued to serve under a number of designations, fighting in every other major U.S. conflict since, except World War I, when it was not deployed to Europe because it was already engaged in the Punitive Expedition in Mexico from 1916 to 1920 / It is currently a component of the 1st Cavalry Division / The regiment originally was organized as horse cavalry in 1866, a designation under U.S. military doctrine that emphasized both light cavalry and dragoon-type mounted and dismounted fighting roles, until 1942 / It served on foot during World War II and Korea, with some elements converting to airmobile infantry for Vietnam, while others were detached and assigned to West Germany as part of an armored task force to resist any potential Soviet incursion / In 1965, 1st Battalion (ABN), 8th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Vietnam, and participated in numerous campaigns in South Vietnam and Cambodia / The battalion was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, the Valorous Unit Citation, and four soldiers were awarded with the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor

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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

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