



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** O'CONNELL

JAMES M.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "B", 26TH SIGNAL BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

EXPERT BADGE: RIFLE

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (SP-4) James Michael O'Connell served as a Radio Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James M. O'Connell was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940



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**Name:** O'CONNOR

JAMES P.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-2

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS WALDRON (DD-699)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Seaman Apprentice

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James O'Connor was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 25 September 1970 / James P. O'Connor passed away on 13 March 2021

USS Waldron (DD-699), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for John C. Waldron, a U.S. Naval aviator who led a squadron of torpedo bombers in World War II / The Waldron was commissioned on 7 June 1944 / Waldron reported for duty in the Pacific in December 1944 as part of the Fast Carrier Task Force (TF-38/58) / Waldron spent her entire World War II service with the fast aircraft carriers / The Waldron remained with the fast carriers during the final strikes on the Japanese home islands / The 15 August 1945 cessation of hostilities found her still off the Japanese coast in company with TF 38 / She screened the carriers while their aircraft covered the initial occupation of Japan / That duty lasted until 10 September, at which time she finally entered Tokyo Bay / During the Vietnam War, the Waldron arrived in Vietnamese waters on 24 August / Ppatrolling near the 17th parallel, she provided gunfire support for the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) during operations ashore during the Vietnam War until September 1967 / During her second tour on the gunline in October 1967, Waldron's main battery supported troops of the Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division and of the South Vietnamese 40th Division / On 30 October 1973, Waldron was decommissioned at Mayport, Florida / She was simultaneously transferred, by sale, to the Colombian Navy / Her name was struck from the Navy List on 31 October 1973 / The USS Waldron (DD-699) earned four battle stars



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during World War II and one battle star for service during the Vietnam War

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**Name:** O'CONNOR

KEVIN H.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 91 ROSEWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** YNSN

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

NAVSUPPACT

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Yeoman Seaman Kevin Harold O'Connor served as a Clerk

**Base Assignments:**

NAVSUPPACT, DaNang, Vietnam

**Miscellaneous:**

Kevin H. O'Connor was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

Yeoman Seaman perform data entry, typing and routing of official correspondence and other essential reports, organizes and maintains all associated work files in an orderly manner, receives office visitors and handles all necessary telephone communications, performs hands-on work using personal computers for word processing along with using copiers, audio-recording devices, and other office equipment, performs administrative type duties in an office setting, maintains relevant personnel and job records along with other official publications, performs administrative functions that coincide with Navy legal proceedings, acts in the capacity of being an office manager and performs other various clerical and administrative duties as assigned



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **OLSON**

**RICHARD J.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

67TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 4th Class Richard J. Olson served in the United States Army as a Cook and also served with the 67th Military Police Company

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Devens, Massachusetts - Fort Devens is a United States Army Reserve military installation in Worcester County in Massachusetts and was established on 5 September 1917 / It was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / In 1940, at the onset of World War II, Fort Devens was designated a reception center for all men in New England who would serve one year as draftees / The 1st, 32nd, and 45th Divisions trained at Devens during World War II / Devens also housed a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian prisoners from 1944 to 1946 / It was designated as early as 1942 for detaining "enemy aliens" of Italian, German and Japanese birth / The U.S. Army post which resided at Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Olson was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 2 August 1968 / Richard J. Olson passed away on 11 January 2018

The 67th Military Police Company was constituted 12 February 1944 in the Army of the United States and activated 25 February 1944 in Algeria / The 67th MP participated in the battles of Rome-Arno; Southern France; Rhineland; and Central Europe during World War II / The company was officially inactivated on July 31, 1955 at Camp McCauley and on 22 July 1963 activated in France / the 67th MP Company was again inactivated 22 June 1972 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and then activated 16 May 2006 at Fort Lewis, Washington



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**Name:** **O'MARA**  
WILLIAM J.

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1ST LT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

ORDNANCE CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant William J. O'Mara served in the Ordnance Corps during the Vietnam War

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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**Name:** **ORNDOFF**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

C.

R.

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** O-2

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (1/12), 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART MEDAL

2 BRONZE STAR MEDALS W/V DEVICE

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

RVN CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

RVN ARMED FORCES HONOR MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant C. Richard "Dick" Orndoff served 12 months of combat in Vietnam as an Infantry Unit Commander with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment (1/12), 4th Infantry Division

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

C. Richard Orndoff was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 26 June 1969 / C. Richard "Dick" Orndoff passed away on 15 May 2021

The 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism and has been awarded 19 Presidential Unit Citations, five Valorous Unit Awards, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, two citations in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army, Nine Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal Third Class, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Belgian Fourragere / Three 12th Infantry battalions deployed to South Vietnam with the 4th Division from August through October 1966 / The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was assigned, set up base camp at Dầu Tiếng in III Corps while the rest of the 4th Division was assigned to the Central Highlands in II Corps alongside the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division which had arrived in December 1965 / The 12th Infantry unique in that the regiment had more battalions deployed in Vietnam than any other infantry regiment / One soldier from the 1st Battalion was awarded the Medal of Honor





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

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961 / Gallantry Cross with Palm: cited at the Armed Forces level

The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal was a military decoration of South Vietnam that was first created on 7 January 1953 / The medal was awarded in 1st and 2nd classes and reached its height of bestowals





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during the Vietnam War years / The medal was also one of the more commonly awarded medals to members of foreign militaries and was frequently bestowed to military advisors of the United States Armed Forces / The Armed Forces Honor Medal was awarded to any member of the military who actively contributed to the formation and organization of the Vietnamese military in South Vietnam and who actively participating in cadre training of Vietnamese units / The medal was intended for non-combat achievements / The first-class medal was awarded to commissioned officers and the second class medals were awarded to warrant officers and enlisted personnel



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**Name:** **ORRANGE**

**GEORGE E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

64TH ARMOR

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

George Edward Orange served with the 64th Armor Division with the US Army Europe and US Army Pacific and served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, George Orange worked for more than 36 years at Dunlop Tire in Tonawanda, New York, holding various positions managing quality control / George Edward Orange later retired to Melbourne, Florida where he passed away on 18 January 2023 at the age of 75 years old

The 64th Armor Regiment is an armor regiment of the United States Army, organized under the United States Army Regimental System / It is descended from the 758th Tank Battalion (Light) that served in the Italian campaign during World War II / Redesignated as the 64th Tank Battalion, it was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War and it spent most of the Cold War stationed in West Germany before elements were transferred to Ft. Stewart, Georgia in the late 1990s / The regiment participated in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Fox, Desert Spring, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns



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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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**Name:** **ORSINI**

**JOSEPH E.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** LT. COL.

**Year Entered:** 1972

**Year Discharged:** 2006

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph E. Orsini served as a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph E. Orsini passed away on 31 March 2023

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**Name:** OSHIER SR  
LOUIS J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone    Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Louis J. Oshier Sr. served two tours in Vietnam and one tour in Berlin, Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Louis Oshier retired as the Director of Law Enforcement Communications at Erie County Central Police Services / Louis J. Oshier Sr. passed away on 28 December 2022 at the age of 80 years old



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**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:**

A BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 321ST ARTILLERY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIV, UNITED STATES ARMY  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (USARV)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Melvin J. Owczarczak received his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1967 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania / Deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam in June of 1968, Second Lieutenant Owczarczak was Killed in Action on 1 September 1968 from a booby trap set by the enemy in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam / The injury was fatal as Lt. Owczarczak died on the hospital ship "Repose" / Second Lieutenant Melvin J. Owczarczak was 25 years of age at the time of his death

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

Melvin Owczarczak received his Lieutenant's commission in 1967 at Indiana Gap, PA and received Artillery Training at Ft. Sill

**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. Army

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all



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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

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





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**Name:** **OZOLINS  
BERNARD**

**Hometown:** ELMA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CAPTAIN

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD ENGINEERING BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Bernard Ozolins served 10 months in Vietnam assigned as the Motor Transport officer / Captain Ozolins served with the Marine Corps for 5 years

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Born in Liepaia, Latvia, Bernard Ozolins attended college and later joined the United States Marine Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant on 21 March 1961 / Bernard Ozolins received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corp on 1 January 1967 / Bernard Ozolins passed away on 30 April 2018 at the age of 79 years old

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War

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military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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