



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BAGER**

JOHN

J.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1974

Unit / Squadron:

205TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (GRENADE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class John Joseph Bager served in Europe for 29 months with Military Intelligence as an Image Interpreter

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Bager received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 18 September 1974 / John Joseph Bager passed away in 2017

The mission of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade was to rapidly deploy and conduct IEW operations in support of V Corps throughout the full spectrum of military operations / The 205th Military Intelligence Brigade had a proud and distinguished history dating back to World War II / The unit had been in a continuous active service since 1944 / The 205th Military Intelligence Brigade was first constituted on 12 July 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 205th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment / The unit was activated on 6 August 1944 in France and served during World War II in Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe / The 205th was deployed to Vietnam and participated in 8 campaigns: Counteroffensive Phase II, Counteroffensive Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase IV, Counteroffensive Phase V, Counteroffensive Phase VI, Tet 69/Counteroffensive, and Summer-Fall 1969 / The 205th Military Intelligence Brigade 'cased its colors' on 21 June 2007 and was inactivated in Wiesbaden, Germany / Its remaining battalions, the 1st and 302nd Military Intelligence Battalions, were reassigned to the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, US Army Europe



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

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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAILEY

FRANKLIN

D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-7

Year Entered: 1957

Year Discharged: 1998

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD (2 AWARDS)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (2 AWARDS)

NYS AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITY AWARD

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (2 AWARDS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

NYS MEDAL FOR HUMANE SERVICE

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Franklin D. Bailey served in the U.S. Armed Forces for 36 years / Bailey served in the Air Force, Army Reserve and the New York Army National Guard / SFC Bailey served as a Jet Aircraft Mechanic and as a Combat Engineer while in the Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Franklin D. Bailey was Honorably Discharged and retired from the New York Army National Guard on 7 June 1998 / Franklin D. Bailey passed away on 2 June 2022

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

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



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January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

The 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

The Air Force Longevity Service Award is a military award established by Air Force General Order 60, on 25 November 1957 by General Thomas D. White, Air Force Chief of Staff / The award was primarily created as an Air Force equivalent to the service stripes used by other branches of the United States military to denote years of military service / The award is retroactive to the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as an independent service in September 1947 and for any service with the U.S. Army Air Forces, U.S. Army Air Corps, or U.S. Army Air Service prior to the creation of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service as long as the serviceman was on active duty on or after 18 September 1947 / The Air Force Longevity Service Award is awarded for completing four years of Active, Air Force Reserve, or Air National Guard service / The Air Force Longevity Service Award is a ribbon-only award

The New York Aid to Civil Authority Medal is an award of the State of New York given to the New York State Organized Militia / The New York Aid to Civil Authority Ribbon is awarded any member of the New York Organized Militia who performs any period of state active duty / For each succeeding award, a medal device (shield) will be attached to the suspension ribbon and service ribbon / These devices shall be: Silver (to represent one additional award) gold (to represent five additional awards)

Established on 19 April 1979, the New York State Medal for Humane Service is awarded to individuals of the New York State Organized Militia who distinguished themselves by sustained meritorious service in a humane operation as a result of a natural disaster, such as floods, snow storms, hurricanes, tornados, and acts of mercy / Service must be in response to an order to State Active Duty by the Governor of the State of New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BALDWIN**

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

TRP "C", 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMAN MEDAL: RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

SHARPSHOOTER MEDAL: HAND GRENADE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (E-4) Michael John Baldwin served as a Radio Operator

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael J. Baldwin was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARBARINO**

ROSS

T.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

99TH FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON (FMS)

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:

Sergeant Ross T. Barbarino served as a Reciprocating Engine Mechanic, stationed at Nha Trang Air Base in South Vietnam for 12 months

Base Assignments:

Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts - Westover Air Reserve Base is an Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) installation located in the Massachusetts communities of Chicopee and Ludlow, near the city of Springfield, Massachusetts / Established at the outset of World War II, today Westover is the largest Air Force Reserve base in the United States, home to approximately 5,500 military and civilian personnel, and covering 2500 acres / Constructed in anticipation of World War II, the installation was named for Major General Oscar Westover who was commanding officer of the Army Air Corps in the 1930s

Nha Trang Air Base, South Vietnam - Nha Trang Air Base (also known as Camp McDermott Airfield) was a United States Air Force (USAF) military airfield used during the Vietnam War / It was located on the southern edge of Nha Trang in Khánh Hòa Province / In May 1953, USAF crews delivered 6 Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcars to Nha Trang, these were then flown by Civil Air Transport crews to Cat Bi Air Base / From 1967 the 571st Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) and the 254th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) both with UH-1Ds were deployed at Nha Trang / In February 1964, three Fairchild C-123B Providers and three air commando C-47s were kept at Nha Trang to support operations of the 5th Special Forces Group which had its headquarters at Nha Trang / These aircraft supported remote Special Forces bases, delivering 1,500 tons of supplies per month / In late November 1965, the 5th Air Commando Squadron equipped with four C-47s and 17 Helio U-10 Super Couriers was formed at the base and then dispersed to forward operating bases throughout central South



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Vietnam / In January 1966, the A-1 equipped 602nd Air Commando Squadron moved to Nha Trang from Bien Hoa Air Base / The 14th Air Commando Wing was activated at Nha Trang on 8 March 1966 and would be the host unit at the base until 15 October 1969 when it moved to Phan Rang Air Base / In mid-1969, as part of the process of Vietnamization, USAF units at Nha Trang began to relocate or inactivate and by October 1969 all USAF units had left the base and only 800 USAF personnel remained there to support operations until the handover of the base to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) in 1970

Miscellaneous:

Ross Barbarino received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force on 7 April 1970 / Ross T. Barbarino passed away on 15 July 2020

The 99th Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS) consisted of engines, hydraulics, electrical, and environmental technicians / Maintenance worked both back shop and were dispatched out to the line when needed

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Name: **BARREN**

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Michael Barren was a self-employed carpenter in home remodeling / Michael James Barren passed away on 19 May 2022



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Name: BARRICK

CONRAD

L.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 39 WALTERCREST TERRACE

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

B BATTERY 3RD MISSILE BATTALION 1ST ARTILLERY

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sp4 Conrad Barrick was a driver and mechanic during his service years

Base Assignments:

Ft. Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established on 16 July 1917 as Camp Dix, named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / Ft. Dix was used for the mobilization, training and demobilization of soldiers from World War I through April 2015 / On 1 October 2009, Fort Dix was consolidated with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Nike Site PI-37, Herminie, Pa - Air Defense site PI-37 was officially activated in 1957 / PI-37 was part of ARAACOM (Army Anti-Aircraft Command), and its designation was B Battery, 1st AAA Msl Bn / B Battery was one of 12 Nike Air Defense sites defending Pittsburgh / It was armed with the Nike Ajax, the worlds first operational, guided Surface to Air Missile / This missile carried high explosive warheads and had a range of around 30 miles with a ceiling of 70,000 feet / Beginning in 1962, the Improved Nike Hercules System with its greater range and accuracy was introduced to B Battery / On 1 September 1971, the 1st Artillery was renamed 1st Air Defense Artillery / The Herminie Nike site was deactivated in mid 1974.

During its operational years, from 1956 to 1974, the Herminie Nike site was manned by an estimated 1,200 Regular Army personnel.

Miscellaneous:

Conrad Barrick graduated from West Seneca West High School prior to military service / After his Honorable Discharge, Barrick went to work for the Westinghouse Electric Corp in Cheektowaga until 1964 / Conrad Barrick



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became a correction officer at Wende Correctional Facility until his retirement / Barrick was a member of the West Seneca Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for many years / Conrad L. Barrick passed away at the age of 78 years old on 9 January 2022

Name: **BARTLETT**

FREDERICK

A.

Hometown: DERBY

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Frederick A. Bartlett started his military career with the National Guard in 1965, then joining the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1999

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frederick Bartlett was the founding father of the Evans Youth Soccer and coached for the Evan Little League Football / Bartlett worked for the Sturgeon Point marina after his retirement / Frederick A. Barlett passed away on 7 January 2024



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARTZ**

DONALD

B.

Hometown: **DERBY**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **AIR FORCE**

Rank: **SSGT**

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant Donald B. Bartz served as an Airplane Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Donald Bartz went to work at the Ford Stamping Plant for 31 years until his retirement / Donald Bruce Bartz passed away on 17 May 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BASHER

ROBERT

E.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

107TH TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP

31 AVIONICS MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 2 STARS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

EXPERT BADGE: SMALL ARMS

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE STAR W/ 1 SHIELD

NYS MEDAL FOR MERIT

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 June 1941, and was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

107th Air National Guard Base, Niagara Falls, New York - The World War II 339th Fighter Group was redesignated as the 107th Fighter Group, and was allotted to the New York Air National Guard, on 24 May 1946 / It was organized at Niagara Falls Municipal Airport, New York, and was extended federal recognition on 8 December 1948 and activated by the National Guard Bureau / The 107th Fighter Group was bestowed the lineage, history, honors, and colors of the 339th Fighter Group and all predecessor units / It was assigned to the NY Air National Guard 52d Fighter Wing / In 1992, with the end of the Cold War, the 107th adopted the Air Force Objective Organization plan, and the unit was re-designated as the 107th Fighter Group / With the arrival of the KC-135R Stratotanker in March 1994, the 107th Fighter Wing converted from an air defense to an aerial refueling mission and was re-designated as the 107th Air Refueling Wing / In November 2007, the 107th was notified that it would



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become an airlift unit / In early 2012, the mission of the 107th began to transition to the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aircraft

Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado - Located near the cities of Aurora and Denver, Lowry Field was named on 11 March 1938 for 2d Lt Francis Lowry, the only Colorado pilot killed in World War I combat / Lowry Air Force Base was designated on 24 June 1948 / Lowry Air Force Base is a former United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) training base during World War II and a United States Air Force (USAF) training base during the Cold War, serving as the initial 1955-1958 site of the U.S. Air Force Academy / The Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center (AFAITC) was established at Lowry on 1 July 1963 with all DOD air intelligence training and advanced training in photographic, radar, and infrared interpretation until moved to Goodfellow AFB, in San Angelo, Texas in 1988 / In 1985 Lowry became the primary training center for USAF space operations until 1991 / Lowry Air Force Base officially closed on 30 September 1994

MacDill Air Force Base, Florida - MacDill Air Force Base, located in south Tampa, was constructed as MacDill Field, a U.S. Army Air Corps, later U.S. Army Air Forces, installation just prior to World War II / The base was named in honor of Colonel Leslie MacDill (1889–1938), a World War I aviator and commander of an aerial gunnery school in the U.S. Army Air Service / Colonel MacDill was killed in a crash of his North American BC-1 on 8 November 1938 at Anacostia, DC / With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as an independent service in September 1947, it became MacDill Air Force Base / During the 1950s and 1960s, it was a Strategic Air Command (SAC) installation for B-47 Stratojet bombers / In the early 1960s, MacDill transitioned to a Tactical Air Command (TAC) installation briefly operating the F-84 Thunderstreak jet fighter before transitioning to the F-4 Phantom II / During the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, MacDill AFB operated F-4 Phantom II fighters under various fighter wings, followed by F-16 Fighting Falcons in the mid- and late 1980s and early 1990s / MacDill AFB is also home to the headquarters for two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: Headquarters, United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), and Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

Tuy Hoa Air Base, Vietnam - Former air force base in Vietnam built by the United States in 1966 and was used by the United States Air Force (USAF) during the Vietnam War in the II Corps Tactical Zone of South Vietnam / On 16 December 1966 the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing became operational at the base until 15 October 1970, when it was transferred to Homestead Air Force Base, Florida / In late 1970, the base was renamed Tuy Hoa Army Airfield and various U.S. Army units, including all army aviation units based at Phú Hiệp Airfield were relocated the Army Airfield / The facility was turned over to South Vietnamese government control on 15 January 1971 / The former Tuy Hoa Air Base was captured by the People's Army of Vietnam in April 1975 and was abandoned for several decades / Today, the site has been redeveloped as Dong Tac Airport

Miscellaneous:

Robert E. Basher graduated from Depew High School prior to his enlistment in the Air Force / Upon receiving his Honorable Discharge, Basher enrolled at Erie County Technical Institute and received his Associate in Applied Science Degree in Electrical Technology / Basher went to work for Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation where he retired after 35 years / Robert Basher currently lives in Elma, New York and is a life member of AMVETS Post 8113 and a long time member of the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee

Avionics are the electronic systems used on aircraft, artificial satellites, and spacecraft. Avionic systems include communications, navigation, the display and management of multiple systems, and the hundreds of systems



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that are fitted to aircraft to perform individual functions

Name: BASTIAN SR

JOSEPH

C.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1957

Year Discharged: 1961

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Bastian worked for DuPont, Ashland and Marathon Oil for 40 years before his retirement / Charles Joseph Bastian, Sr. passed away on 22 November 2023 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Lancaster, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BATEMAN**

NEIL

E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Neil Ellis Bateman was deployed to Vietnam and was Killed In Action by small gunfire during enemy combat on 15 May 1967 in Quang Ngai province, Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Neil Bateman graduated from Maryvale Senior High School in 1966 where he excelled in Football and Wrestling / Bateman sang in the choir of St. Stephens Church, Amherst and served as President of its Senior High Fellowship prior to enlisting in the United States Army in August 1966 / Neil Ellis Bateman was 20 years old when he was Killed In Action and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

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



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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 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 Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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



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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BATEMAN**
NEWTON

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- ☐ **Vietnam Era**
☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PHM2C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Pharmacist Second-Class Newton Bateman was stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Newton Bateman graduated from Maryvale Senior High School in 1960 / Newton Bateman's brother, Neil Ellis Bateman, was Killed In Action while serving in Vietnam



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BAUER**

PAUL

W.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Bauer graduated from Canisius High School in 1955 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Bauer was the owner of the Raymond A. Bauer Insurance Agency for 58 years / Paul Bauer was a member of the National Skeet Shooting Association and inducted into the NYS Skeet Shooting Hall of Fame / Bauer was also a lifetime member of the Grand Island Rod & Gun Club and the Niagara River Station Fishing Club / Paul W. Bauer passed away on 13 January 2024 at the age of 85 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BAUER**

WAYNE

C.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **NAVY**

Rank: **MR1**

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

NAVSUBSUPPFAC

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

METITARIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION W/BRONZE STAR

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY "E" RIBBON

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

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

Service Notes:

Machinery Repairman Petty officer 1st Class (MR1) Wayne Charles Bauer served as a Submarine Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne C. Bauer was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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Town of West Seneca, New York

The Navy "E" Ribbon denotes the wearer was on permanent duty aboard a U.S. Navy ship or in a unit that won a battle efficiency competition after July 1, 1974

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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

The Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) is a unit award of the United States Navy presented to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps units / The award is presented for service that is performed with character that would be comparable to the Bronze Star Medal / The Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps that has distinguished itself, under combat or non-combat conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement, which renders the unit outstanding compared to other units performing similar service, but not sufficient to justify award of the Navy Unit Commendation / To justify this award, the unit must have performed service of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of a Bronze Star Medal, or achievement of like caliber in a non-combat situation, to an individual / Additional awards are represented by wearing a Bronze Star device on the service ribbon



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BEALE**
ROBERT

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- ☐ **Vietnam Era**
☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MAG 12, VMA 214

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Robert Boughton Beale was deployed to Vietnam as a Jet Fighter Pilot and flew both the Marine A-4C Skyhawk and Phantom Jet Fighters / Captain Beale was Killed In Action on 17 March 1967 when his A-4C aircraft was hit by hostile enemy fire while attacking an enemy sampan / Captain Beale crashed into the China Sea five miles off the shore from Tam Ky, Quang Nam Province and died of injuries to the body

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Beale graduated from Orchard Park Central High School in 1967 / Beale was an Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop #503 and was a member of the National Honor Society / Robert Beale attended and graduated from Hobart College, Geneva in 1961 / Prior to entering the Marine Corp, Robert Beale was employed by the Boeing Aircraft Corporation in Seattle, Washington / Robert Boughton Beale was 28 years old at the time of his passing and is interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) is an active air group of the United States Marine Corps, tasked with providing fighter and assault support aircraft / It is currently part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW), itself an integral part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and based at MCAS Iwakuni in Japan / The mission of Marine Aircraft Group 12, as the tactical air arm of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, is to conduct air



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

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

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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,



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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

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

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BECHTEL

DAVID J.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David J. Bechtel served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Bechtel volunteered at the VA Hospital for over 14 years / David J. Bechtel passed away onj 21 December 2023 at the age of 77 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BECKER**

BARRY

R.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

8TH SPT BATTALION, 196TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEA BAR

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Barry Robert Becker served as a Personnel Specialist

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Barry R. Becker was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

The 196th Infantry Brigade arrived on 14 August 1966 at Tây Ninh Combat Base, Vietnam / It began operations almost immediately in the western area of III Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade conducted Operation Cedar Falls, Gadsden, Lancaster, Junction City, Benton, and Attleboro (in War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province) / Attleboro turned into a major action after a large enemy base camp was found on 19 October 1966 / In April 1967, Gen. William Westmoreland ordered the formation of a division sized Army task force to reinforce American forces in I Corps Tactical Zone / The 196th was selected to form a part of the task force / Task Force Oregon became operational on 20 April 1967, when troops from the 196th landed at Chu Lai Base Area in I Corps / Over the next month, it was joined by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (later redesignated the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division) / In September 1967 Task Force Oregon was redesignated the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) and an official change of colors ceremony was held on 26 October 1967 / Later, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division were replaced by the 198th and 11th Light Infantry Brigades / As part of the 23rd, the 196th participated in Operations Wheeler/Wallowa, Golden Fleece, Fayette Canyon, Frederick Hill, Lamar Plain, Elk Canyon I and Elk Canyon II / In early May 1968,



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Town of West Seneca, New York

the Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiments was flown in to assist other US forces at the Battle of Kham Duc / On 29 November 1971, the 196th became a separate temporary entity to safeguard this same area of operations / An entire company of the 196th was also involved in opposing the war by famously sitting down on the battlefield /

In April 1972, the 196th moved to Da Nang to assist in port security duties / Units of the brigade were rotated through Phu Bai Combat Base to provide base security / The brigade finally left Vietnam on 29 June 1972 as the last combat brigade to leave Vietnam / The 196th served in Vietnam from 15 July 1966 through 29 June 1972 / The brigade suffered 1,188 killed-in-action, and 5,591 wounded-in-action during its service in Vietnam

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

An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BECKWITH**

RICHARD

E.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **SGT**

Year Entered: **1966**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 26TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, 42ND POSTAL UNIT

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:

Sergeant Richard Earl "Dick" Beckwith served in Vietnam as a Postal Clerk / SGT Beckwith was Killed In Action on 29 February 1968 from artillery rocket mortar during hostile enemy action in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam / Sergeant Beckwith was on his second tour of duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Beckwith graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1959 / Beckwith worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp, Lackawanna Plant, prior to being drafted in September 1966 / Richard Earl "Dick" Beckwith was 26 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

The 1st Logistical Command was constituted 24 August 1950 in the Regular Army / The Command was reorganized and redesignated 2 July 1962 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command / No unit was more critical to the buildup of American forces in Vietnam than the 1st Logistical Command / Prior to 1965, the U.S. Army in Vietnam was supplied by the Army's Pacific Command through the small U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, which served under the 9th Logistical Command in Okinawa / As a result, the 1st Logistical Command, which had first been activated during the Korean War, was deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Saigon on 1 April 1965 / In mid-1965, the 1st Logistical Command,



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processed 70,000 tons of incoming material per month / In 1966, 700,000 tons a month was processed, not counting critical items brought in by air / The 1st Logistical Command was redeployed to Fort Hood on 7 December 1970

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BEDARD**

ROBERT

D.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert D. Bedard served in the Army as a Supply Specialist / Bedard also attended Light Weapons Infantry school at Fort Dix, and Drill Sergeant school at Fort Jackson / In addition to serving as a Drill Instructor, Robert Bedard served with the 1st Military Police & POW Command at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort George Meade, Maryland - Fort Meade became an active Army installation in 1917 and was named in honor of Major Gen. George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg proved a major factor in turning the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North / Fort Meade was used as a World War II recruit training post / In September 1943, the first shipment of 1,632 Italian and 58 German prisoners arrived at Fort Meade

Miscellaneous:

Robert Bedard was Honorably Discharged from active duty with the US Army on 15 April 2019 / Robert D. Bedard passed away on 14 April 2019



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BEITER**

ROGER J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 136 WESTCLIFF DRIVE

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First Class Roger J. Beiter died in the crash of an Air Force Military Transport on 25 June 1965

An Air Force C-135A Stratolifter military jet transport, unaccountably failing to make a scheduled left turn, plunged into a fog-shrouded mountain and exploded after takeoff on 25 June 1965, killing all 84 men aboard -- including 72 Marines bound for Viet Nam. There were no survivors in one of the worst military air disasters in peacetime history. It also was California's worst air disaster. The C135 air transport, military counterpart of the commercial Boeing 707 jetliner, smashed into a mountain 4 1/2 miles directly north of the end of the runway from which it took off moments before

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.

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Constructed in May 1941, Camp LeJeune is a Marine Corps. amphibious assault training facility located in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The camps is also the home of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces in Readiness.

Miscellaneous:

Roger Beiter was a graduate of Queen of Heaven School and was enrolled as a Freshman at Canisius College at the time of his enlistment

Private First Class Rodger J. Beiter was 18 years of age at the time of his death.



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The Boeing C-135 Stratolifter is a transport aircraft derived from the prototype Boeing 367-80 jet airliner in the early 1950s. It has a narrower fuselage and is shorter than the commercial 707 airliner / Since the first one was built in August 1956, the C-135 and its variants have been a fixture of the United States Air Force / The C-135A had seating for 126 passengers and powered by four J-57-P-59W engines



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BELL

LEONARD J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, C 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:

Sergeant Leonard Jonathen Bell served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Bell was Killed In Action on 11 May 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during hostile enemy action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leonard Bell was a graduate of the Park School, Buffalo and attended Canisius College prior to being drafted into the Army in February 1967 / Leonard Jonathen Bell was 20 years old at the time of his death and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment, entered the Vietnam War in January, 1966 / During their five-year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned two valorous unit citations, and was one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The regiment participated in Operation Junction City and fought during the Tet Offensive and the May Offensive / The regiment finally returned to Hawaii in April, 1971 / More recently the regiment deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq

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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 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese



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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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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: **BENEVENTO**

MICHAEL

A.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Michael A. Benevento served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael A. Benevento passed away on 29 June 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BENNING

JESSE

J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

3RD BATTALION, 8TH MARINE REGIMENT, 2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Jesse James Benning was deployed to Vietnam for 17 months where he served as an Anti-Tank Assaultman

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Jesse Benning received his Honorable Discharge from the US Marine Corps on 10 September 1973 / Jesse James Benning passed away on 13 January 2020

3rd Battalion 8th Marines (3/8) was an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, consisting of approximately 1,100 Marines and Sailors / The battalion fell under the command of the 8th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / The mission of the Marine Corps rifle squad is to locate, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver and/ or repel enemy assault by fire and close combat / The battalion was activated on 1 November 1940, in San Diego and during World War II the battalion participated in the action at the Battle of Guadalcanal, Battle of Tarawa, Battle of



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Saipan, Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / Following the surrender of Japan, they re-deployed during September 1945 to Nagasaki, Japan and participated in occupation of Japan from until February 1946 / During the 1960s they participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis from October to December 1962 and Operation Powerpack in the Dominican Republic in 1965

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BEREBKO**

ROBERT

R.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

42ND SUPPLY SQUADRON, STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (SMALL ARMS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Robert R. Berebko served as a Fuel Specialist during 10 months of active duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Berebko received his Honorable Discharge from the US Air Force on 16 November 1973 / Berebko was a member of the Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post 6251 and the Disabled American Veterans Post 203 / Robert R. Berebko passed away on 31 December 2020

The 42d Air Refueling Squadron is an inactive United States Air Force unit / It was last assigned to the 42d Bombardment Wing at Loring Air Force Base, Maine, where it provided worldwide refueling until it was inactivated on 30 April 1994 / The squadron's earliest predecessor was the 542d Bombardment Squadron, which served as a heavy bomber training unit during World War II and was inactivated in a general reorganization of Army Air Forces training units in 1944 / In 1965, the squadron began to deploy aircraft and aircrew support for Operation Young Tiger operations in Southeast Asia / This support for other units refueling combat operations in Southeast Asia continued until 1975 / The 42d Air Refueling Squadron was inactivated in April 1994 as Loring AFB closed

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members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BERGER**

DONALD J.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON 13 (MABS-13), MAG-13, 1ST MARINE AIR WING, FMFPAC

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13

Medals / Citations:

NAVY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Donald Joseph Berger was a Marine pilot serving his third tour in Vietnam / On 28 December 1969, during a flight to checkout the Chu Lai Air Base navigational equipment, the squadron's C-117D aircraft with Captain Berger onboard and piloted by LtCol. Douglas Snead, crashed into the side of a mountain about 10 miles southwest of Chu Lai, in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam / All on board died instantly / First reported as missing, the remains of Captain Donald Berger as well as those of Donald Joseph Snead, William Lloyd Bunch, Ronald Francis Liscum and Douglas Lee Snead were recovered on 31 December 1969 / Captain Berger was Killed In Action on 28 December 1969

Donald Berger joined the Marine Corps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1951 after graduating from Officer Training School in Pensacola, Florida / Berger was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1967 / Berger left the Marine Corps in 1958 to return to Syracuse University and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Forestry / Captain Berger rejoined the Marine Corps and was assigned to Thailand / His second tour was in Vietnam from 1965 - 1968 / Berger started his third tour of Vietnam in March 1967

Captain Donald Berger was awarded the Navy Cross in 1966 for extraordinary heroism while serving with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 / Captain Berger rescued stranded Green Berets and South



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Vietnamese soldiers at As Hau and transported them to a safety zone / He then made a "controlled crash" landing when his helicopter was disabled by enemy gunfire and later directed his crew and ground personnel in fighting off enemy troops and returning safely to American lines

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Berger was a 1949 graduate of Amherst Central High School and attended Syracuse University from 1949 - 1951, later returning to college to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Forestry / Donald Joseph Berger was 38 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 (VMM-163) is a United States Marine Corps helicopter squadron consisting of MV-22 Osprey transport tiltrotors / The squadron, known as "Evil Eyes", is based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW) / The mission of VMM-163 is to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations / Be prepared for short-notice, worldwide deployment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations / In late July 1962, HMM-163 deployed to Sóc Trăng Airfield, South Vietnam / During their time in South Vietnam, VMM-163 crews had flown a total of 10,869 hours, 15,200 sorties and had lifted over 25,216 combat assault troops and 59,024 other passengers

Marine Aircraft Group 13 (MAG-13) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma that is currently composed of one McDonnell Douglas AV-8B Harrier II squadron, three Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II squadrons, an unmanned aerial vehicle squadron, a maintenance and logistics squadron, and a wing support squadron / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-13 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force commanders

The Navy Cross is the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps' second-highest military decoration awarded for sailors and marines who distinguish themselves for extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force / The medal is equivalent to the Army's Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force and Space Force's Air Force Cross, and the Coast Guard Cross / The Navy Cross may be awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces while serving with the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard (when a part of the Department of the Navy) who distinguishes themselves in action by extraordinary heroism not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

The 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



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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

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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Navy personnel who have been attached to a Fleet Marine Force Unit in active combat with an armed enemy beginning with World War II are authorized to wear a 1/8 inch bronze miniature Marine Corps emblem centered on the suspension ribbon of the World War II Area Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces, which was first created in 1961 by Executive Order of President John Kennedy / The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after July 1, 1958, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BERMEM**
WILLIAM D.

Hometown: ANGOLA

Address:

- ☐ **Vietnam Era**
☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "S", SCH BRIGADE, 1ST ARMY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS BAR

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (E-4) Willaim Dallas Bermel served as a Clerk

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William D. Bermel was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BERNAS**

JAMES

R.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address: James

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-6

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1978

Unit / Squadron:

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON-312, MARINE AIR GROUP-31

2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

Medals / Citations:

USMC GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS MAST

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant James R. Bernas served as an Aircraft Electrical Systems Technician and worked on the F-4J Phantom II Aircraft / SSgt Bernas served 3 months in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina - Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort or MCAS Beaufort is a United States Marine Corps air base located 3.1 miles northwest of the central business district of Beaufort, South Carolina / About 4,700 personnel serve at the station, and it is home to four Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet fighter-attack squadrons and two F-35B Lightning II training squadrons / Naval Air Station Beaufort was commissioned on 15 June 1943, for advanced training operations of anti-submarine patrols during World War II / It was deactivated in 1946 and reactivated in 1956 / On March 1, 1960, it was re-designated Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort / The mission of MCAS Beaufort is to provide support as an operational base for MAG-31 and its associated squadrons, Marine Corps support units and tenant Navy strike fighter squadrons

Miscellaneous:

James Bernas was Honorably Discharged from the US Marine Corps on 21 August 1978 / James R. Bernas passed away on 9 July 2020 at the age of 68 years old

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 (VMFA-312) is a United States Marine Corps F/A-18C Hornet squadron / Also known as the "Checkerboards", the squadron is based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG-31) and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (2nd



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MAW) / Marine Fighter Squadron 312 (VMF-312) was commissioned on 1 June 1943, at Page Field, Parris Island, South Carolina / VMF-312's first combat action came on 12 April 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa as part of Marine Aircraft Group 33 (MAG-33), when four squadron aircraft intercepted 20 Japanese Zeros and scored eight kills without a loss / VMF-312 continued to operate from Kadena Air Base on Okinawa until the cessation of hostilities / By war's end, the squadron had accounted for 59.5 air combat kills in the Pacific Theater During the Korean War, VMF-312 squadron amassed 4,945 accident-free hours of carrier operations while logging 1,920 carrier landings / During the Vietnam War, the "Checkerboards" performed the vital mission of training combat aircrews prior to their deployment to Southeast Asia

The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (2nd MAW) is the major east coast aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps and is headquartered in Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina / The Wing provides the aviation combat element for the II Marine Expeditionary Force The mission of the 2nd MAW is to conduct air operations in support of the Marine forces to include Offensive air support, anti air warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance, electronic warfare, and control of aircraft and missiles / During World War II, the 2nd MAW contributed to 83 South Pacific combat operations / Marines and aircraft from 2nd MAW participated in major battles or campaigns at Wake Island, Guadalcanal, Midway, Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Okinawa / During the Vietnam War, 2nd MAW supplied combat-ready units and personnel to operations in the Asian Theater

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The Meritorious Mast is a formal and ceremonial acknowledgment recognizing an enlisted person being awarded a Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation, or a personal decoration whenever personal performance is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty by a demonstration of exceptional judgement or initiative / Meritorious mast awards are used as official recognition for a job well done



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BETTINGER**

JAMES

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: COVINGTON DRIVE

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1973

Year Discharged: 1976

Unit / Squadron:

DAVID GRANT MEDICAL CENTER

Medals / Citations:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James J. Bettinger was stationed at the David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base where he worked in a laboratory involved in blood testing and microbiology

Base Assignments:

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 June 1941, and was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Sheppard AFB, Texas - The base, located near Wichita Falls, was is named in honor of Senator John Morris Sheppard of Texas (1875–1941), chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee from 1933 until his death on 9 April 1941. Senator Sheppard helped lead the fight for military preparedness before the attack on Pearl Harbor / It was officially opened as a United States Army Air Corps training center on 17 October 1941, following the arrival of the first military members on 14 June. As the Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces, facilities were completed sufficiently to allow the first class of 22 aviation mechanics to enter training that October; the class graduated 23 February 1942 / Sheppard Field reached its peak strength of 46,340 people while serving as a separation center for troops being discharged following World War II from September through November 1945 / Communications, refrigeration, air conditioning, and power production operator and repairman training were transferred to Sheppard in 1959

Travis AFB, Fairfield, California - Originally named Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, construction began on Travis in



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1942 / In October 1942, the War Department assigned the base to the Air Transport Command with the primary mission during World War II to ferry aircraft and supplies to the Pacific Theater / On 1 May 1949, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) became the parent major command for Travis AFB with the Military Air Transport Service (MATs) resuming command of Travis AFB on 1 July 1958 / In 1992, with the reorganization of the Air Force following the end of the Cold War, Military Airlift Command (MAC) was inactivated and Travis came under the control of the newly-established Air Mobility Command (AMC)

Miscellaneous:

James J. Bettinger graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School and attended Canisius College in Buffalo prior to enlisting in the Air Force / After his Honorable Discharge from the military, Bettinger remained in California, attending Fresno State University from 1977 thru 1979 receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in the field of Microbiology / From 1980 until his retirement in 2010, Bettinger was a Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Microbiologist at Fresno Veterans Medical Center in California

David Grant USAF Medical Center (DGMC) - 60th Medical Group, Travis AFB is the U.S. Air Force's largest medical center in the continental United States and serves military beneficiaries throughout eight western states / It is a fully accredited hospital with a National Quality Approval gold seal by the Joint Commission, and serves more than 500,000 Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care System eligible beneficiaries in the immediate San Francisco-Sacramento vicinity from 17 counties covering 40,000 square miles / DGMC is named in honor of Dr. (Maj. Gen.) David Norvell Walker Grant, USAAF, MC (1891-1964), the first Surgeon General of the U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Army Air Forces / The medical center first opened its doors to patients on 1 July 1943 as the 4167th Station Hospital at Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Field / After V-J Day, the primary mission of the AAF Station Hospital was to provide medical care for the station complement and transient personnel, and to perform routine examinations prior to the transfer to separation centers / On 1 July 1966, the USAF Hospital at Travis AFB was designated David Grant USAF Medical Center in honor of the late Major General (Dr.) David Norvell Walker Grant / DGMC encompasses 808,475 net square feet with 3,662 rooms and is staffed to operate 84 inpatient beds (expandable to 176), 16 aeromedical staging facility beds (expandable to 40) and 52 dental treatment rooms in the adjacent Arthur J. Sachs Dental Clinic / DGMC operates one of six Air Force Clinical Investigation Facilities, working on medical innovation to improve care for the warfighter and the nation / Summaries from the DGMC research focus on critical care, trauma resuscitation, long-term health after combat and the cardiac effects of energy drinks are posted for viewing by the Air Force Medical Service



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BETZ**

CARL

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the US Army, Carl Betz went to work for Quad/Quebecor/Arcata, retiring with over 40 years with the company / Carl J. Betz passed away on 2 August 2023



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BETZ JR.**

JOHN

A

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

HIGHER HEADQUARTERS (HHQ) 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE

2ND ARMORED DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/SILVER STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

SHARPSHOOTER: RIFLE

DRIVER AND MECHANIC BADGE

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Ft. Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established on 16 July 1917 as Camp Dix, named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / Ft. Dix was used for the mobilization, training and demobilization of soldiers from World War I through April 2015 / On 1 October 2009, Fort Dix was consolidated with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - The base was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for Union Civil War general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s in recognition of the Belvoir plantation that once occupied the site, but the adjacent United States Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys Engineer Center retains part of the original name / Fort Belvoir was initially the home of the Army Engineer School prior to its relocation in the 1980s to Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri / Fort Belvoir serves as the headquarters for the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Acquisition University, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Defense Technical Information Center, the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, the United States Army Military Intelligence Readiness Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, all agencies of the United States Department of Defense



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Vũng Tàu, Vietnam - Vũng Tàu is a port city and the capital of Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province, on a peninsula in southern Vietnam / During the Vietnam War, various United States military units were headquartered in Vũng Tàu

Fort George G. Meade, Maryland - Located in Maryland, midway between the cities of Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington, DC, the fort was initially called Camp Annapolis Junction and was opened as "Camp Admiral" in 1917 / The post was called Camp Meade Cantonment and Field Signal School by 1918 / During World War II, Fort Meade was used as a recruit training post and prisoner of war camp / Fort George G. Meade's primary mission is to provide a wide range of services to 95 partner organizations from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as to several federal agencies including the National Security Agency, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the Defense Information School, the Defense Courier Service, the U.S. Army Field Band and most recently the U.S. Cyber Command

Fort Hood, Texas - Located in Killeen, Texas, the United States Army post was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood and is the largest military base in the world (by area) with more than 215,000 acres / During the late 1960's, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the fort's divisions

Miscellaneous:

John A Betz Jr. graduated from Depew High School prior to his military service / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Betz was employed by Erie Community College (ECC) where he spent 50 years in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) field

Originally constituted as the 3907th Signal Service Battalion in 1944, the battalion was designated on 19 July 1951 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Signal Support Battalion, and allotted to the Regular Army / The battalion was later reorganized and designated on 15 June 1954 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion / The 39th Signal Battalion received many Army Meritorious Unit Commendations for service in Vietnam

The 1st Signal Brigade was activated on 1 April 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam / The brigade's mission in Vietnam was to originate, install, operate, and maintain a complex communication system that fused tactical and strategic communications in Southeast Asia under a single, unified command / The formation of the brigade brought together three signal groups that were already in South Vietnam / At the peak of the Vietnam War the brigade consisted of more than 21,000 soldiers, in six Signal groups (including the 160th Signal Group), 22 signal battalions and several communications agencies, making the 1st Signal Brigade the largest signal unit in the U.S. Army at the time

The 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels") was an armored division of the United States Army / The division played an important role during World War II in the invasions of North Africa and Sicily and the liberation of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands and the invasion of Germany / The First Battalion, Fiftieth Infantry; Second Squadron, First Cavalry; First Battalion, Fourteenth Field Artillery; and First Battalion, Ninety-second Field Artillery fought in the war in Vietnam / During the Cold War, the division was primarily based at Fort Hood, Texas, and had a reinforced brigade forward stationed in West Germany / After participation in the Persian Gulf



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War, the division was deactivated in 1995 / Its units were later transferred to the 4th Infantry Division



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BEUTLER**

ROBERT

D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: SW2

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

USN NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 1 (NMCB 1)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/FLEET MARINE COMBAT OPNS VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY EXPERT BADGE: RIFLEMAN

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

Service Notes:

Steelworker Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Daniel Beutler served as an Equipment Operator

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert D. Beutler was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 (NMCB 1), is a United States Navy Seabee battalion commissioned on 15 March 1942 / NMCB 1 has a long, proud and distinguished history as the very first Naval Construction Battalion of the service that would become known as the Seabees / MCB 1 was the first Atlantic Fleet Battalion to deploy to Vietnam / From 1966 to 1970, the Battalion made four consecutive deployments to Southeast Asia / During the second deployment an urgent airfield was needed at Quảng Trị /The project was designated "top secret", site "X", and to be completed in under 45 days / MCBs 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 74, 121, and 133 all sent detachments of men and equipment to get the job done/ The Battalion, while in Vietnam, received the Navy Unit Commendation in 1968, 1969, and 1970

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 /Navy personnel who have been attached to a Fleet Marine Force Unit in active combat with an armed enemy beginning with World War II are authorized to wear a 1/8 inch bronze miniature Marine Corps emblem centered on the suspension ribbon of the



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World War II Area Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BEYER

FREDERICK J.

Hometown: MARYSVILLE, PA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9)

Medals / Citations:

GOLDEN SHELLBACK

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

Service Notes:

Hospitalman Frederick J. Beyer attended Operating Room School at Bethesda Naval Hospital and was enrolled in the Hospital Corpsman School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois

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

Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland - The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), formerly known as the National Naval Medical Center and referred to as the Bethesda Naval Hospital Bethesda, Walter Reed, or Navy Med, is a tri-service military medical center located in the community of Bethesda, Maryland, near the headquarters of the National Institutes of Health / It is one of the most prominent U.S. military medical centers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and the United States, having served numerous U.S. presidents since the 20th century / In 1938, the United States Congress appropriated funds for the acquisition of land for the construction of a new Naval medical center, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt selected the present site in Bethesda, Maryland, on 5 July 1938 / In 2011, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), named after yellow fever researcher Walter Reed, was combined with the National Naval Medical Center to form the tri-service Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Miscellaneous:

Prior to his enlistment in the Navy, Frederick Beyer graduated from Susquenita High School in Duncannon, Pennsylvania / After his Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Beyer attended and graduated with a Bachelors of



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Arts Degree from Manahath Bible College in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania / Beyer continued his education enrolled at the Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia where he received his Master of Divinity (M. Div.) degree and the Grace Theological Seminary, located in Winona Lake, Indiana, where Beyer earned his Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degree (religious equivalent of the Ph.D.).

After completing his education, Frederick Beyer started his career as a Chaplain serving his community and performing his duties at Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital, Children's Hospital of Buffalo and also at Hospice Buffalo

The Golden Shellback - The ceremony of Crossing the Line is an initiation rite in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marine Corps that commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the Equator / The ceremony observes a mariner's transformation from a slimy Pollywog (a seaman who hasn't crossed the equator), to a trusted Shellback (also called a Son or Daughter of Neptune) / It was a way for sailors to be tested for their seaworthiness / The tradition may have originated with ceremonies to ensure a ship's newest mates were capable of handling long rough times at sea

The USS Long Beach (CLGN-160/CGN-160/CGN-9) was a nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser in the United States Navy / She was the only ship of her class and the third Navy ship named after the city of Long Beach, California and was the first nuclear-power surface warship in history / The Long Beach was commissioned on 9 September 1961 / The Long Beach served with the 6th Fleet in the early 1960's providing peacekeeping in the Mediterranean and in the later 1960's was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin to support naval operations during the Vietnam War / The Long Beach was again deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in the 1990's, serving as an escort for the USS Missouri task force and providing aircraft carrier escort support after the Gulf War / The USS Long Beach was decommissioned on 1 May 1995 and sold as scrap in July 2012



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BIALASIK JR.

MICHAEL

S.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS DAVIS (DD937)

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Michael S. Bialasik, Jr. served on the destroyer USS Davis from 1963-1965

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Bialasik graduated from Seneca Vocational High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Michael Bialasik was employed by the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Buffalo, retiring in 2010 after 25 years of service / Bialasik was an electrician and was a lifetime member of I.B.E.W. Local 41/ Michael S. Bialasik, Jr. passed away at the age of 78 years old on 29 October 2022

USS Davis (DD-937) was a Forest Sherman-class destroyer and named for Commander George Fleming Davis, commander of the USS Walke (DD-723), killed in action at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon in the Philippine Islands on 6 January 1945 / The Davis was commissioned on 6 March 1957 and patrolled the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, attached to the Sixth Fleet / During the Vietnam War, the USS Davis patrolled the southernmost region of South Vietnam, providing gunfire support for South Vietnamese forces and their American advisors / The Davis left the Vietnamese waters in June 1966, returning to the Mediterranean / The Davis returned to South Vietnam in 1968, operating in support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, below the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / during the 1970's, the Davis patrolled the North Atlantic / The Davis was decommissioned on 20 December 1982 and sold for scrap to the Fore River Shipyard and Iron Works in Quincy, Massachusetts on 11 December 1992, eventually being scrapped by Wilmington Resources of Wilmington, North Carolina



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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: KIA

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 started his tour of duty in Vietnam as an Electrician in April 1967 / His battalion 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 / Seabee John L. Bialkowski was Killed in Action on 24 June 1967 during enemy fire, causing his truck to crash, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

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

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



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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

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

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 /



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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: **BICKELMAN**
JAMES

Hometown: EAST AURORA

Address:

- ☒ **Vietnam Era**
☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 127TH ARMOR, 3RD BRIGADE,
27TH ARMORED DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class (E-4) James "Jim" Bickelman served in the Army National Guard for 6 years as a Motor Transport Operator / Bickelman also served as a Driver Instructor and driver for his commanding officer

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Buffalo Masten Avenue Armory , Best Street & Masten Avenue, Buffalo - The Buffalo Armory was built in 1902 and in 1931 a fire started in the basement of the Masten Avenue Armory / The fire destroyed the armory and spread and destroyed a church and many nearby homes / It has been called one of the worst fires in the history of the city of Buffalo / The Armory was rebuilt in 1933 and was the home of the the 106th Field Artillery unit and later home to other units including the 127th Artillery, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 127th Artillery, and the 105th Military Police Company

Miscellaneous:

James Bickelman received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army National Guard on 25 August 1969 / James "Jim" Bickelman passed away on 5 January 2023

The 27th Armored Division was a United States Army formation. It was part of the New York Army National



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Guard in the 1950s and 1960s / In February, 1955 a reorganization of the Army National Guard included reorganizing the 27th Infantry Division as the 27th Armored Division / In 1955, the composition of the 27th Armored Division included the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 27th Armored Division / The 27th Armored Division was inactivated in February, 1968 during another reorganization of the Army National Guard / During its existence the 27th Armored Division was not activated for federal service and saw no combat / It was activated for state service, including the response to the 1964 Rochester riot / The division was reorganized in 1968 as the 27th Armored Brigade, a unit of the 50th Armored Division / The 27th Armored Brigade was reorganized as an Infantry brigade in 1975 and aligned with the 42nd Infantry Division / In 1985 the 27th Infantry Brigade was activated as part of the New York Army National Guard, and assigned as the "roundout" brigade of the Army's 10th Mountain Division / The 27th Infantry Brigade carries on the lineage and history of the 27th Infantry Division



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BIERON**

JOSEPH

F.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Captain Joseph F. Bieron served in the Army during the 1900's as a Chemist at the Redstone Arsenal, Alabama

Base Assignments:

Redstone Arsenal, Alabama - Redstone Arsenal (RSA) is a United States Army post adjacent to Huntsville in Madison County, Alabama, United States and is part of the Huntsville-Decatur Combined Statistical Area / The Arsenal is a garrison for various tenants across the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, and NASA / Established during World War II as a chemical manufacturing facility / Following the immediate post-war era, the Arsenal was used for research and development by German weapons rocket scientists who were brought to the U.S. as part of Operation Paperclip / The team first worked on ballistic missiles, starting with V-2 rocket derivatives, before moving on to a series of ever larger designs / Many of their tests were carried out at White Sands Missile Range and flights between the two locations were common / In late 1956 the Army was relieved of most of its ballistic missiles in favor of similar weapons operated by the US Air Force / The German design team was spun off to become part of the newly founded National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) / The Arsenal served as the primary site for space launch vehicle design into the 1960s

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Bieron graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Canisius College and the University of Buffalo, where he earned his Doctorate in Chemistry / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Bieron was employed by Canisius College where he taught Chemistry and spent eight years as the Dean of Arts and Sciences / After 40 years at Canisius, Joseph Bieron retired from full-time teaching in 2004, continuing to serve as Professor Emeritus / Bieron founded the Canisius College Press in 1995, which published many local interest books, including history books / Joseph Bieron served on the Orchard Park School Board for many years during the 2000's / During sabbaticals from Canisius College, Bieron worked for Occidental Chemical Corp where he developed several patents and also worked with the Smithsonian Institute to develop an exhibit called "Science



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in American Life", which opened in Washington, D.C. in 1993 / Joseph F. Bieron passed away on 14 December 2023 at the age of 86 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BIGELOW

LAWRENCE

C.

Hometown: LAKEVIEW

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

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 Lawrence Carol Bigelow was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Bigelow was killed in enemy action in Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam on 5 April 1970, when he suffered multiple fragmentation wounds / His body was recovered / SP4 Lawrence Bigelow received a posthumous promotion to Sergeant

A Company, 2nd Bn, 7th Cavalry, lost seven men on 5 April 1970: 1LT John W. Rohr, New Bedford, MA; SSG Eugene P. Gee, Oxford, NC; SGT Lawrence C. Bigelow, Lake View, NY; SGT David R. Borzych, Pulaski, WI; CPL Charles M. Cobb, Dallas, TX; CPL Calvin J. Layton, Greenville, MS; CPL Steven M. Torrey, Guttenberg, IA

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence Carol Bigelow was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Derby, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas



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

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Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BISSELL**

DONALD

E.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Donald Edward Bissell served in Vietnam from 1969 - 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Bissell attended High School in Wellsville prior to enlisting in the U.S. Air Force / Donald Edward Bissell passed away on 27 November 2023 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at the WNY National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BIZUB

STEVEN

M.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1973

Year Discharged: 1975

Unit / Squadron:

77TH FIELD ARTILLERY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

61ST AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY, EIGHTH US ARMY

Medals / Citations:

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL W/1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: VARIOUS WEAPONS

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Steven M. Bizub served as an Airplane Electrician and as a Man Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) Crewmember / Sgt. Bizub served in the Army for 5 years during 2 different periods: 1973 - 1975 and 1983 - 1985

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Steven Bizub was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 18 December 1985 / Steven M. Bizub passed away on 26 February 2022

The 77th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army. First constituted 1916 in the Regular Army as a cavalry regiment. Reorganized in 1917 as field artillery and given its current designation / The Regiment fought in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War and the Global War on Terrorism

The 61st Artillery (CAC) is an air defense artillery regiment in the United States Army and was activated at Fort Moultrie on 9 March 1918 and fought in France in July 1918 / The Regiment also fought in World War II and Korea

The Army Achievement Medal is the lesser of the U.S. military's meritorious service medals and was first introduced as a means to recognize the contributions of enlisted personnel and junior officers who were not



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qualified to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / Additional awards are denoted by oak leaf clusters

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

The Army Service Ribbon (ASR) is a military award of the United States Army and is awarded to all members of the Regular (Active) Army, and Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve in an active reserve status, for successful completion of initial-entry training, which for officers is considered to be successful completion of their basic/orientation or higher-level course / Enlisted soldiers will be awarded the ribbon upon successful completion of their initial military occupational specialty (MOS)-producing course

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BLUM**

MICHAEL

C.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Michael Charles Blum served as a Field Radio Operator and was stationed in South Vietnam for 10 months / Cpl. Blum served approximately 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and approximately 10 years in the New York Air National Guard, finally retiring after 20 years of active and reserve duty

Base Assignments:

Niagara Air Base, Niagara Falls, N.Y. - The Niagara Falls Air Force Base is an Air Force Reserve Command military installation operationally-gained by the Air Mobility Command / It is located adjacent to Niagara Falls International Airport, New York, 4.7 miles east-northeast of Niagara Falls, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard) / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base.

Miscellaneous:

Michael Blum was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 31 March 1970 / Michael Charles Blum passed away on 14 June 2021

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was activated August 1, 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 July 20, 1924 / The battalion was reactivated March 1, 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division



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of the Fleet Marine Force / The force was active for only a brief period of time, during which it was deployed to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina / Shortly after the United States entered into World War II, the unit was reactivated February 11, 1942, at New River, North Carolina / It was again 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, and was a part of the American advance into Japanese territory in the Pacific / The first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign, during which the battalion defended Henderson Field, an airfield on Guadalcanal, and withstood Japanese bombings of the strategic location / The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment was deployed to Kobe, Japan in preparation for its participation in the Korean War from September 1950 – July 1953, during which it 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, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, and assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force / The Battalion participated in the War in Vietnam, November 1965 – May 1971, engaging in numerous major operations and battles / Unit awards included the Vietnam Service Medal with two Silver and three Bronze Stars, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer and the Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Action Medal

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BOBO, JR.

WILLIAM

P.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

William Perry Bobo, Jr. served as a troop commander of an armored cavalry corps in South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After graduating from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, William P. Bobo, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army / Bobo served as a platoon leader, executive officer and troop commander of an armored cavalry corps / After his Honorable Discharge in 1970, Bobo was employed by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical / In 1980, Bobo was recruited by Abbott Laboratories, retired in 1998 as General Manager of Plant Operations / William Perry Bobo, Jr. passed away on 26 March 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOBOWSKI JR**

JAN

E.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **SGT**

Year Entered: **1966**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY E, 3RD BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, USAV

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. was deployed to Vietnam in February 1968 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / During an engagement with enemy forces on 7 April 1968 in the vicinity of Dong Tam in Kien Hoa Province, Sergeant Bobowski was killed in action by hostile rifle fire / Sgt Bobowski was declared missing in action until recovered on 22 April 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jan Bobowski was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School and attended Canisius College before being inducted into service in December 1966 / Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalberts Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The U.S. 60th Infantry Regiment is a regimental unit in the United States Army constituted 15 May 1917 / Its 2nd and 3rd Battalion conduct Basic Combat Training / Participating in three wars on three continents, the 60th has played a conspicuous role in the achievements of 5th Division in World War I and 9th Infantry Division in World War II and Vietnam / After service as the 2nd Battle Group, 60th Infantry from 1958 to 1962, three battalions (2/60, 3/60, and 5/60 Mechanized) were activated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and assigned to the 9th Infantry Division for its deployment to the Republic of Vietnam in December 1966 / The 9th Division was the only major U.S.



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combat unit to conduct operations in the Mekong Delta / On 13 September 1968, the 5th/60th Mech was "swapped" with the 1st/16th of the 1st Infantry Division / From then until August 1970, the 5th/60th operated as a "straight leg" infantry unit / The battalions of the 60th Infantry participated in both Riverine operations and "jitterbug tactics" which featured split-second timing of airmobile insertions in close proximity to enemy units / Beginning with the 3rd Brigade in July 1969, the 9th Infantry Division was the first US Division to be withdrawn from Vietnam / From the Summer of 1969 through the Fall of 1970, units of the 3rd Brigade remained in the Mekong Delta; operating under the command of the 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi / The Division returned to Ft. Lewis, Washington in 1970, where its battalions were inactivated

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOCHNEWETCH II**
SHERMAN

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant Sherman (Skip) Bochnewetch II graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was in the top ten of his class

First Lieutenant Sherman Bochnewetch was deployed to Vietnam in December 1968 as an Infantry Unit Commander and was Killed In Action on 28 February 1970 when a land mine exploded while he was leading an infantry platoon on a combat mission in Long Khanh Province, Vietnam / LT. Bochnewetch was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, posthumously

Base Assignments:

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:



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Sherman Bochnewetch graduated from Orchard Park High School in 1962, where he played football and ran track / Bochnewetch obtained the rank of Eagle Scout with Explorer Post #268 / Sherman Bochnewetch attended Florida State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1967 / Sherman (Skip) Bochnewetch II was KIA on 28 February 1970 at the age of 25 years old and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

The 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1940, in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in the Vietnam War), briefly in 1991–1992 at Fort Lewis, and from 2007 as an active army training formation at Fort Moore / The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War / Nicknamed "the Redcatchers", the unit was hastily moved to Song Be, Vietnam on 10 December 1966 to provide an increased U.S. presence in the III Corps Tactical Zone and remained there until its return to Fort Benning on 11 October 1970 / The brigade was conducting Operation Uniontown in Dong Nai Province when the 1968 Tet Offensive began / It immediately began a defense of U.S. II Field Force headquarters at Long Binh Post against attacks by the VC 275th Regiment / One battalion was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong command post at the Phu Tho racetrack inside Saigon, then engaged in house-to-house fighting in Cholon / During 1969, the 199th was responsible for the security of the region north and east of the capital, and in 1970 moved into the "Iron Triangle" when other units participated in the Cambodian Incursion / The brigade was deactivated in 1970 until it was reactivated in 1991 and 2006

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Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOERSCHIG**

GARY

L.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 884 MILL ROAD

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PO-2

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV/CVA-62)

ELECTRONIC ATTACK SQUADRON 133 (VAQ-133)

Medals / Citations:

AIRCREWMAN WINGS

GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON

SQUADRON UNIT CITATION

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Gary L. Boerschig was assigned to the flight crew aboard a Grumman HU-16 Albatross as a radioman and flew rescue and goodwill missions to the Marianna and Marshall Island chains / Boerschig also flew Air-Sea Rescue missions while stationed at NAS Agana / As an Aviation Electronics Technician (AT-2), Petty Officer Boerschig perform maintenance on aviation electronics systems, which included: communications, radar, navigation, antisubmarine warfare sensors, electronic warfare, data link, fire control and tactical displays

Base Assignments:

Naval Air Station (N.A.S.) Agana, Guam - Former Japanese Military Field recaptured by American forces in 1944 and renamed Agana Airfield / After being repaired in October 1944, the United States Army Air Forces Seventh Air Force used the airfield as a base for the 11th Bombardment Group, which flew B-24 Liberator bombers from the station / In 1947, the USAAF turned over the airfield to the United States Navy / Naval Air Station Agana was closed in 1993

Naval Air Station Alameda, California - Naval air station facilities were constructed in 1940 for two carrier air wings, five seaplane squadrons and two utility squadrons / In April 1942, the USS Hornet (CV-8) loaded at Alameda the 16 B-25 aircraft that would take part in the Doolittle Raid on Japan / The base was the focus for northern California United States Navy Reserve drill after 1961 / Runways were lengthened for jet aircraft, and the airport was renamed Nimitz Field in 1967 following the death of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz / Nuclear powered aircraft carriers were home ported at Alameda into the 1990s / NAS Alameda was closed on 25 April 1997



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Gary Boerschig was a graduate of West Seneca West Senior High School / Prior to military service, Boerschig attended Roberts Wesleyan College for three years and worked at Hanna Furnace during the summer breaks / After an honorable discharge, Gary Boerschig went to work at Allied Chemical as a Chemical Operator and Welder until his retirement in 1982 / Gary retrained and received his Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree as an Electrical Engineer Technician from Erie Community College

The fifth USS Independence (CV/CVA-62) was an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy and entered service in 1959 as the fourth and final member of the Forrestal class of conventionally powered supercarriers / Independence made a single tour off the coast of Vietnam in 1965 during the Vietnam War, and also carried out airstrikes against Syrian forces during the Lebanese Civil War and operations over Iraq during Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq / The USS Independence was decommissioned in 1998 after 39 years of active service.

Electronic Attack Squadron 133 (VAQ-133) was established 4 March 1969 at Naval Air Station Alameda, California. The squadron originally flew the EKA-3B Skywarrior / Following the 2012-2013 deployment of Carrier Air Wing 9 onboard USS John C. Stennis, VAQ-133 was reassigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight based aboard USS George H.W. Bush

The Aircrewman Badge, commonly known as Wings, is a qualification badge of the United States military that is awarded by all five branches of armed services to personnel who serve as crew members on board military aircraft / The badge is intended to recognize the training and qualifications required by aircrew of military aircraft / In order to qualify as an aircrew member and receive the Aircrew Badge, such personnel typically undergo advanced training in aircraft in-flight support roles

The Grumman HU-16 Albatross is a large twin-radial engine amphibious flying boat that was used by the United States Air Force (USAF), the U.S. Navy (USN) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), primarily as a search and rescue aircraft / It was also employed as an operational support aircraft worldwide and for missions from the former NAS Agana, Guam during the Vietnam War / Goodwill flights were also common to the surrounding Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the early 1970s.



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOGDAN**
DELPHIN 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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Delphin J. "Del" Bogdan attended Emerson High School where he was an All High in Baseball / After graduation, Bogdan entered into military service, joining the US Army / Bogdan was a member of the WNY Softball Hall of Fame / Delphin J. Bogdan passed away on 17 April 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOJANEK**

ROBERT

A.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

HHC, 14TH AVIATION BATTALION, 16TH AVIATION GROUP, AMERICAL DIVISION, USARV.

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Arthur Bojanek was deployed to Vietnam as a Medical Laboratory Specialist on 9 July 1970 / On 30 November 1970, the 16th Aviation Group Medical Dispensary at the Chu Lai Military Complex in Qunang Tin Province was hit by an enemy 122mm Rocket inflicting multiple casualties / SP4 Robert Bojanek was Killed In Action as a result of the explosion / Six other soldiers were killed having sustained injuries

Base Assignments:

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Fort Lewis is a United States Army base located 9.1 miles south-southwest of Tacoma, Washington / Fort Lewis was originally established in 1917 and was merged with McChord Air Force Base on 1 February 2010, to form Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) / Fort Lewis, named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States, consisting of 87,000 acres / From 1942 to 1943, 42 Japanese, German, and Italian Americans were held at Fort Lewis as part of the government's "enemy alien" internment program during World War II / The Japanese and Italian internees were transferred to Fort Missoula and the Germans to Fort Lincoln, and the temporary detention facility closed on 30 March 1943 / Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Fort Lewis) is the home of much of the 2nd Infantry Division, along with Headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and the 1st Special Forces Group / The mission of the base is to provide support to mission commanders and the joint base community, to serve as an enabler to the soldiers as they train and project America's combat power



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Ft. Benning, Georgia - Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

Robert Bojanek was a graduate of St Joseph's College Institute and Canisius College / Prior to entering service (Selected Service) in the US Army in May of 1968 he worked as a Lab Technician for the Grand Island Biological Company / Robert Arthur Bojanek was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

The 14th Aviation Battalion was constituted on 2 Sept 1964, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion and was activated on 3 Sept 1964, at Ft Benning, Georgia / The Battalion Headquarters arrived in Saigon, RVN on 14 Oct 1964, and was assigned to the United States Army Support Command Vietnam / On 21 Oct 1964, Headquarters, 14th Aviation Battalion moved from Saigon to Nha Trang and the Battalion was declared operational on 17 Nov 1964 / The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion engaged the enemy from Nha Trang to Khe Sanh and into the Kingdom of Laos for over seven years / One hundred and fifty four soldiers were Killed In Action / The last remnants of the 14th Aviation Battalion were deployed back to the new home of the 14th Aviation Battalion, Ft Sill, Oklahoma, on 25 October 1971

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 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 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



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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 Combat Medical Badge (CMB) is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945 / Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB / According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy; strict adherence to this requirement and its interpretation (e.g., distant mortar rounds vs. direct small arms fire) will vary by unit

The 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: **BOLLMAN**

DAVID

W.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 1975

Unit / Squadron:

ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMPANY, MAINTENANCE BATTALION, 2ND FORCE TROOPS, FLEET
MARINE FORCE

Medals / Citations:

DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal David W. Bollman served as a Tracked Vehicle Repairman

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

David Bollman was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps. On 18 July 1975 / David W. Bollman passed away on 4 May 2021

The broad mission of the Ordnance Corps is to supply combat units with weapons and ammunition, including at times their procurement and maintenance

The mission of Ordnance Maintenance Company, Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force is to provide general support, intermediate (3rd and 4th echelon) maintenance support and Tracked Vehicle Recovery for Marine Corps -furnished ordnance equipment of a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOMMER**

GERALD

L.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Gerald L. Bommer served as a Flight Engineer in the Air Force for 32 years with multiple deployments beginning in Vietnam through the Gulf Wars and Operation Desert Shield/Storm

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald L Bommer passed away on 26 February 2017



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BONCORE**

CARL

J.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **AIR FORCE**

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Carl John Boncore served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Carl John Boncore passed away on 8 September 2023 and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BORCZYNSKI**

FREDERICK E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

"D" CO, 6TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Frederick Earl Borczynski was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman on 03 April 1968 / Sergeant Frederick Borczynski was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile mortar fire while defending his position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam / Along with Sgt Borczynski, 5 other soldiers died from hostile mortar fire: SP4 Robert Vinson Bollman, SGT Danny Carlton Hayes, SGT James Randall Pruett, PFC Steven Paul Rance and SSG Richard Barry Trotter

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frederick Earl Borczynski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a



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light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

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

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

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 /



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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 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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOROWICZ**
KENNETH

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Kenneth Borowicz was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman on 10 April 1967 / In the early morning hours of 2 February 1968, elements of Company "D" came under heavy attack at the Cam Lo District Headquarters in Quang Tri Province / The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) launched a ground attack using supporting arms against the Marines / Reaction units from Company "A" were immediately dispatched to assist their comrades battling a superior enemy force / The fighting continued into the afternoon with the Battalion suffering five men killed in action and thirteen wounded requiring evacuation by the time it subsided / Corporal Kenneth Borowicz was Killed In Action as a result of a hostile gunshot wound to his chest

Prior to his deployment to Vietnam, Corporal Kenneth Borowicz served three years as a Security Guard at the Brooklyn Naval Yard

02 February 1968

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris



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Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / 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

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Borowicz was a graduate of St. Adalbert's School and Burgard Vocational High School in 1964 / Kenneth Borowicz was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines (3/4) or (V34) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Nicknamed "Thundering Third" or Nicknamed "Darkside," it is based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, and consist of approximately 1,000 Marines / The battalion was first activated in 1925 at Naval Base San Diego, California / The 3/4 fought in World War II in the Battle of Corregidor, Guam and Okinawa / On 14 April 1965, the 3rd battalion, 4th Marines was deployed to an area near Chu Lai, South Vietnam / Two companies were sent north to Phu Bai to secure a small airfield just 8 miles south of Hue City / First contact was made on 22 April 1965 southwest of Da Nang with a Vietcong (VC) unit / The Marines at Phu Bai made their first contact on April 24 / They participated in company and platoon size patrols and ambushes against the VC in the Thua Thien-Hue Province till the end of June 1966 / On 31 January 1967, Operation Prairie II started / On 27 February 1967, L/3/4 and a tank platoon was involved in a battle near Hill 48 to save a recon team that ran into a PAVN Regiment / On the 28th other Marine companies including M/3/4 were brought in for ground operation / When the operation ended total casualties for both sides were put at 93 Marines killed, 483 wounded and the PAVN losses were put at 694 killed / Some of the other major Operations in 1967 were Operation Hickory (18 May to 28 May), Operation Kingfisher (16 July to 31 Oct) and Operation Kentucky near Con Thien in the western area of Leatherneck Square in the latter part of 1967 and in January 1968 / After 6 November 1968, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines were the last infantry battalion of the 3rd Marine Division left in South Vietnam / On 24 November 1969, the battalion sailed from Vietnam to Okinawa

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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 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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Town of West Seneca, New York

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 served in Vietnam as a Rifleman / LCpl Boryszewski was Killed in Action on 10 April 1969 while on duty with the First Marine Division near Da Nang, in the Quang Nam province, South Vietnam / Corporal Boryszewski died of fragmentation wounds when an enemy land mine exploded

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

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



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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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOSSMAN**

PETER R.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 84 BRIANWOOD DRIVE

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HM3

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

NAVY MEDICAL SCHOOL - GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 363, MARINE AIR GROUP 13 (MAG-13)

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (MAW), MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 265 (HMM-265)

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:

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Peter R. Bossman was Killed in Action on 25 September 1966 aboard a Marine Corps helicopter when the aircraft was shot down / HM3 Bossman was on an evacuation mission when shot down near Dong Ha Quang Tri Province

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



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Highway 9 was a primary east-west road that ran from the South Vietnamese/Laos border nearly to the 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 / Hospitalman Third Class Peter R. Bossman was 21 years of age at the time of his death

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

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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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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



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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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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOSWELL**

DAVID

H.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **52 SWINBURNE**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **NAVY**

Rank: **HN**

Year Entered: **1964**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 2ND CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP B 1

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY 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:

Hospitalman David Henry Boswell served in Vietnam with Combined Action Platoon Bravo-1 (CAP Bravo-1), 2nd Combined Action Group, Combined Action Program, Third Marine Amphibious Force / Hospitalman Boswell arrived in Vietnam in December 1968 and was assigned to a Marine Corps unit / HN Boswell was Killed In Action on 3 June 1968 in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered through hostile action / Hospitalman Boswell was killed while pulling wounded soldiers from the field

Hospitalman Boswell joined the Navy Reserve in 1964 and went on active duty in April 1966 / HN Boswell was originally assigned to the boiler room on a destroyer and decided to switch to Hospitalman (Corpsman)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Boswell was a graduate of the Boys Vocational High School and School Number 4 / David Henry Boswell was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

2nd Civil Affairs Group (2nd CAG) is a civil affairs (CA) unit of the United States Marine Corps / It is based at Naval Support Facility Anacostia, Washington, D.C., and is part of the Force Headquarters Group of the Marine Forces Reserve / The unit was deactivated in June 2019 and turned into Marine Corps Advisor Company (MCAC) Alpha



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and Marine Corps Advisor Company Bravo

III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It is forward-deployed and able to rapidly conduct operations across the spectrum from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) to amphibious assault and high-intensity combat / The III Marine Amphibious Force's (MAF) area of operations was in the northern I Corps Tactical Zone in Vietnam / III MAF participated in the Vietnam War from May 1965 – April 1971 operating from Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai / The III Marine Amphibious Force maintains a forward presence in Japan and Asia to support the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan (1960) and other alliance relationships of the United States / III MEF also conducts combined operations and training throughout the region in support of the National Security Strategy for Theater Security Cooperation

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Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOZER**

EDWARD

F.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Edward Francis Bozer underwent Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood / Bozer served in the Army Signal Corps and was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany

Base Assignments:

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In 1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Miscellaneous:

Edward Bozer graduated from Williamsville Central High School, where he played football / Bozer graduated from the University of Buffalo, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Edward Bozer began a career in the Aerospace Industry, becoming a Program Manager on numerous projects that included pioneering work on advanced equipment for the Space Shuttle, commercial aviation and defense systems for the United States and allied forces / After his retirement, Bozer moved to Mesa, Arizona in 2012 / Edward Francis Bozer passed away on 24 November 2023 at the age of 85 years old

The United States Army Signal Corps was established in 1860 and was used in World War II to coordinate swift and accurate communication for air, ground, and naval units required more sophisticated technology and service



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/The Signal Corps develops, tests, provides, and manages communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined arms forces / The Signal Corps pioneered in the development of radar to detect approaching aircraft as well as mobile communications and deciphering machines / In addition to its primary role in military transmissions, the unit also played a key role in producing training films for army and civilian personnel, and documenting combat missions / During World War II, noted Hollywood producers, directors, and photographers (such as Darryl Zanuck, Frank Capra, John Huston, and George Stevens) all served in the Signal Corps



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRACIAK**
JAMES

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James Braciak was stationed at Cape Cod Air Force Station, Massachusetts

Base Assignments:

Cape Cod Air Force Station - Located in Flatrock Hill, Massachusetts, the facility's primary mission is controlling and maintaining the Raytheon AN/FPS-123 PAVE PAWS installation to track space debris, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles / Its secondary mission is tracking Earth-orbiting objects such as the International Space Station, any object that deviates from its known orbit, or any new orbiting objects.

Miscellaneous:

James Braciak was an accountant working for several firms, before joining Northrup Grumman until his retirement / On 1 April 2021, James Braciak passed away at the age of 75 years



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Name: **BRADY**

EDWARD

P.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **AIR FORCE**

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Edward Patrick "Eddie" Brady served in the United States Air Force National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Brady graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School and was an outstanding football player / Brady managed Mulligan's Brick Bar, the Pierce Arrow Bar and Hemmingway's Bar / In 1990, Edward Brady opened Eddie Brady's Tavern / Edward Patrick "Eddie" Brady passed away at the age of 70 on 12 June 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRENNAN**

DENNIS

H.

Hometown: GETZVILLE

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:

Dennis H. Brennan served as a Corpsman with the US Marine Corps in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis H. Brennan passed away on 30 July 2022



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Name: **BRENNAN**
JAMES A.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

- ☒ **Vietnam Era**
☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class James A. Brennan attended Instructor School at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia / A1C Brennan was an Air-to-Air Missile Instructor

Base Assignments:

Langley Air Force Base, Virginia - Langley Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Hampton, Virginia, adjacent to Newport News / Langley Air Force Base, originally known as Langley Field, is named after Samuel Pierpont Langley, an aerodynamic pioneer and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution / It was one of thirty-two Air Service training camps established after the entry of the United States into World War I in April 1917 / The Air Force mission at Langley is to sustain the ability for fast global deployment and air superiority for the United States or allied armed forces / The base is one of the oldest facilities of the Air Force / On 25 May 1946 the headquarters of the newly formed Tactical Air Command were established at Langley / The command's mission was to organize, train, equip and maintain combat-ready forces capable of rapid deployment to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime air defense / The arrival of Tactical Air Command and jet aircraft marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the field, and in January 1948 Langley Field officially became Langley Air Force Base

Miscellaneous:

James Brennan graduated from Kensington High School and enlisted in the Air Force / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Brennan attended and graduated from Erie Community College and the University of Buffalo, earning a bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / James Brennan joined the Depew Police Force in 1970 and was appointed as a Detective in 1974, becoming a Patrol Lieutenant in 1977 and promoted to Captain in 1982 / In 1974 Brennan was promoted to Chief of Police, heading a department of 31 Police Officers and eight civilians / Brennan retired from the Depew Police Department in 2002 and became an Investigator for the US Treasury Department and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) until 2013



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

/ James A. Brennan passed away on 2 June 2023 at the age of 79 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRESE

ANTHONY A.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Anthony Arthur Brese served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Brese died from non-hostile wounds on 26 December 1970 while serving on Firebase Bastogne (also known as Firebase Phu Xuan) in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony Arthur Brese was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles



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The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRETON

WILLIAM

K.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Breton worked for various contractors as a laborer / William K. Breton Passed away on 29 July 2023 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery in Corfu, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRIGGS**

DAVID I.

Hometown: NORTH COLLINS

Address: BRANT ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY, C 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 David Ivan Briggs served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 David Briggs was Killed In Action by small arms fire while engaged in hostile forces on 23 November 1968 in Bo Loi Woods, Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient



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Miscellaneous:

David Ivan Briggs was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Spirit Cemetery, North Collins, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducts military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / After undergoing major reorganizations in 1957 and 1963 to adapt to changing tactics, the division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan / Its present deployment is composed of light infantry and aviation units / Tropic Lightning soldiers regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry (4/9) disembarked at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 29 April 1965 / Within days of landing, the 4/9 Infantry saw combat action in Cu Chi, Vietnam / Battalion-size operations conducted by the 4/9 Infantry included Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Helemano, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry / The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry served in Vietnam for four years and six months

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



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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

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: BRODA

THADDEUS F.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

10TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 O/S BAR

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: M-16 RIFLE

FIRST CLASS GRENADE

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: M-16 RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Thaddeus Francis Broda was a Medical Corpsman in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Sam Houston, Texas - Fort Sam Houston is a U.S. Army post in San Antonio, Texas known as "Fort Sam," / It is named for the U.S. Senator from Texas, U.S. Representative from Tennessee, Tennessee and Texas Governor, and first President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston / Fort Sam Houston is known as the "Home of Army Medicine" and "Home of the Combat Medic" / At the end of World War II, the Army decided to make Fort Sam Houston the principal medical training facility

Miscellaneous:

Thaddeus F. Broda was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

The 10th Evacuation Hospital was reactivated 12 July 1967, at Fort Meade, Maryland / It was reorganized and redesignated as a Combat Support Hospital on 21 March 1973 / Reorganization as a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital On 16 August 1983 the unit was redesignated as the 10th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH)

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



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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

An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRODERICK**

JOHN

E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,
2ND BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (2/27), 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant John E. "Jack" Broderick served six months in Vietnam as a Wireman Team Chief from 1969 to 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Broderick was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 4 January 1970 / John Broderick retired from the Town of West Seneca Highway Department / Broderick was a member of many organizations including the Gaelic American Association of WNY, the Hoppers Social Club, American Legion Post 735 and Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 898 / John E. "Jack" Broderick passed away on 9 July 2019

In United States Army units, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is a company-sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within one company / In identifying a specific headquarters unit, it is usually referred to by its abbreviation as an HHC / While a regular line company is formed of three or four platoons, an HHC is made up of the headquarters staff and headquarters support personnel of a battalion, brigade, division, or higher level unit / The Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides command, staff, administrative, supply and maintenance, communication, engineer, and medical support for the battle group

The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, "Wolfhounds," was first constituted on 2 February 1901 in the Regular Army as



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Company F, 26th Infantry / The unit was organized on 18 March 1901 at Fort McPherson, Georgia and redesignated on 29 May 1901 as Company B, 27th Infantry / The 27th Infantry saw extensive action in the Pacific theater during World War II and the ensuing occupation of Japan / in July 1950, the 27th Infantry departed for Pusan, Korea, to assist in holding the Pusan perimeter at the onset of the Korean conflict / The unit saw heavy action throughout the Korean conflict, earning 10 Campaign Streamers and 3 Presidential Unit Citations / Upon conclusion of hostilities in Korea, the unit returned to Schofield Barracks / The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry entered the Vietnam conflict in January 1966 / During their 5 year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned 2 valorous unit citations, and proved to be one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The 2-27th Infantry return to Hawaii in April 1971 and inactivated on 5 June 1972 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii / The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry was again activated on 16 August 1995 and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry carried 30 battle streamers and 12 unit citations on its colors

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

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 National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRODNICKI**

DAVID

R.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal David R. Brodnicki served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David R. Brodnicki was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers, Local 71, for more than 50 years / Brodnicki was an avid hunter and served as a youth soccer coach / David R. Brodnicki passed away at the age of 77 on December 19, 2020



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROMSTEAD**

JIM

R.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1961

Year Discharged: 1964

Unit / Squadron:

1ST PROVISIONAL ARMORED MAINTENANCE DETACHMENT, SEVENTH US ARMY

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER - M-1 RIFLE

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Jim R. Bromstead served as an Armor Communication Specialist

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 11 February 1964, Jim Bronstead served as a Detective with the Erie County Sheriff's Department/ Bronstead was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 5260 / Jim R. Bromstead passed away on 27 May 2022

The 7th Armored Division ("Lucky Seventh") was an armored division of the United States Army that saw distinguished service on the Western Front, from August 1944 until May 1945, during World War II / The division was reactivated in the early 1950s, but was not sent to Korea. It was stationed at Camp Roberts, California for the duration of the conflict

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

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.



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRONOWSKI

LAWRENCE J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "A", 1/50 INFANTRY, 101ST AVN DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (E-4) Lawrence Joseph Bronowski served as a Light Weapons Infantryman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence J. Bronowski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion -size air assault operations to seize terrain / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 / In 1971, elements of the division supported Operation Lam Son 719, the South Vietnamese invasion of southern Laos, but only aviation units actually entered Laos / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time, all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROOKS SR.**

RICHARD

C.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

316TH FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, 316TH AIR WING

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Richard C. Brooks, Sr. served as an Aircraft Electronics Navigation Equipment Repairman and served 11 months of active duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Langley Air Force Base, Virginia - Langley Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Hampton, Virginia, adjacent to Newport News / Langley Air Force Base, originally known as Langley Field, is named after Samuel Pierpont Langley, an aerodynamic pioneer and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution / It was one of thirty-two Air Service training camps established after the entry of the United States into World War I in April 1917 / The Air Force mission at Langley is to sustain the ability for fast global deployment and air superiority for the United States or allied armed forces / The base is one of the oldest facilities of the Air Force / On 25 May 1946 the headquarters of the newly formed Tactical Air Command were established at Langley / The command's mission was to organize, train, equip and maintain combat-ready forces capable of rapid deployment to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime air defense / The arrival of Tactical Air Command and jet aircraft marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the field, and in January 1948 Langley Field officially became Langley Air Force Base

Miscellaneous:

Richard C. Brooks was Honorably Discharged from from the US Air Force on 9 June 1967

The 316th Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS) was a component of the 316th Fighter Wing while the Wing was at Langley AFB 1965-75



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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROPHY**

MARTIN

E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 2355 NIAGARA STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 41ST INFANTRY PLATOON SCOUT DOG

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 Martin Earl Brophy served in Vietnam as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SP4 Martin Brophy was Killed In Action on 5 May 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile action in Binh Duong province, South Vietnam

On 5 May 1968, the Viet Cong were in the second day of a new nation-wide offensive in which they shelled more than 120 targets across Vietnam / One of the locations that was hit was the base camp for the 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Enemy rockets killed six U.S. personnel, some while they were sleeping / The lost Americans at Lai Khe included dog handlers SP4 Martin E. Brophy and SSGT Juan P. Martinez, intelligence specialist SSGT Richard A. Brown, artilleryman SP4 William E. Shaffer, clerk-typist SP5 Howard J. Spear, and infantryman PFC Louis L. Spear

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Martin Earl Brophy was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest



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continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / During its involvement in the Vietnam War, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners of war / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

The 41st Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was one of two Scout Dog platoons attached to the First Infantry Division

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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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

ANDREW T.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 129 DELAVAN AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (MAF), 3RD CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP 3 3 5

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:

Private Andrew Thomas Brown served in Vietnam as a Mortarman with the III Marine Amphibious Force and was Killed In Action on 9 September 1968 from small arms fire during hostile action in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

The brother of Andrew Brown, Specialist Fifth-Class William Brown, also served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Andrew Brown moved to Buffalo in 1955 and graduated from Grover Cleveland High School in 1967 / Brown worked for a Jefferson Avenue grocery store before entering the Marine Corps / Andrew Thomas Brown was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Tylersburg Cemetery, Tylersburg, Pennsylvania

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



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War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

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 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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

DAVID J.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David J. Brown was an United States Navy Pilot and a Flight Instructor

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Brown was a retired Captain for American Airlines / Brown retired to Naples, Florida after his retirement / David J. Brown passed away on 3 November 2022 at the age of 79 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

JOEL

A.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 2ND BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 2ND INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joel Andrew Brown began his tour in Vietnam on 10 October 1966 and served as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Private First Class Brown distinguished himself by exceptional valorous actions on 10 March 1967, while serving as a machine gunner on an armored personnel carrier near Prek Klok / Late at night, Private Brown's base camp came under heavy ground and mortar attack from a numerically superior Viet Cong force / PFC Brown continuously placed deadly accurate fire on the enemy, until thrown from the carrier by the explosion of a rocket round / Badly shaken, Brown braved withering fire to carry an unconscious comrade to safety and once again returned to the line / As the attack intensified, Private Brown detected an enemy rocket position and directed effective fire upon it, knocking it out / Blown from the carrier by a second rocket round and seriously wounded, he continued to ignore his personal safety and maintained his lethal fire in support of his unit's now mounting counteroffensive / As his unit directed its counterattack, Private Brown continued to inflict heavy casualties upon the enemy until a third rocket round hit his carrier's turret, mortally wounding him / PFC Joel Brown was Killed In Action on 10 March 1967, a ground casualty of multiple fragmentation wounds / PFC Brown was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously)

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before



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entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

Miscellaneous:

Joel Brown was a 1963 graduate of Frontier High School / Brown was a former member of AFL-CIO Local 2603 / Joel Brown was inducted into the United States Army on 26 April 1966 / Joel Andrew Brown was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 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 / The 2nd Battalion deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vũng Tàu in October 1965 and assigned to Lai Khe, Vietnam / The battalion initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon and on 2 January 1967, the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / 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, Bù Đốp (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Lộc, and An Lộc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / On 15 April 1970 the 2nd Battalion was inactivated

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The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) is the United States Army's second highest military decoration for soldiers who display extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force / Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations, but which do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor / The Distinguished Service Cross is only awarded for actions in combat / The Army Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Naval Services' Navy Cross, the Air and Space Forces' Air Force Cross, and the Coast Guard Cross. Prior to the creation of the Air Force Cross in 1960, airmen were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross



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Name: **BROWN**

RONALD

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

RONALD

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ *Vietnam Era*

☒ *Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald F. brown passed away at the age of 75 on 29 April 2021



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**
WILLIAM

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 90 18TH STREET

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class William Brown served in Vietnam

The brother of SP5 William Brown, Corporal Robert Joseph Brown, Jr., was Killed in Action in Vietnam on 22 July 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN JR**

ROBERT J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 90 18TH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. served in Vietnam as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / Corporal Brown was Killed in Action on 22 July 1970 as a result of rocket mortar fire during hostile action on Hill 805, Firebase Ripcord, Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Brown was a graduate of Lafayette High School / Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, New York

The Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord was a 23-day battle between elements of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and two reinforced divisions of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) that took place from 1 to 23 July 1970 / It was the last major confrontation between United States ground forces and the PAVN during the Vietnam War / Three Medals of Honor and six Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to participants for actions during the operations

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air



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assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

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

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

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

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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert,



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sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: BRUDZ

DANIEL J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

BRAVO COMPANY, 304TH SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Daniel John Brudz was deployed to South Korea for 16 months active duty and served as a Radio Relay and Carrier Attendant

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Brudz received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 8 February 1968 / Daniel John Brudz passed away on 21 November 2020

The United States Army Signal Corps was established in 1860 and was used in World War II to coordinate swift and accurate communication for air, ground, and naval units required more sophisticated technology and service / The Signal Corps develops, tests, provides, and manages communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined arms forces / The Signal Corps pioneered in the development of radar to detect approaching aircraft as well as mobile communications and deciphering machines / In addition to its primary role in military transmissions, the unit also played a key role in producing training films for army and civilian personnel, and documenting combat missions / During World War II, noted Hollywood producers, directors, and photographers (such as Darryl Zanuck, Frank Capra, John Huston, and George Stevens) all served in the Signal Corps

The 304th Signal Battalion was constituted on 29 July 1921 and allotted to the IV Corps Area / It was organized in March 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia / In 1945, the 304th, with augmentation from the 2201st, operated the Army



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Signal Center for all operations in the Philippines controlled by the 8th Army / In 1950, during the Korean War, the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced was deployed to the Republic of Korea / The unit's mission provided tactical communications support to United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army, and non-DOD U.S. Government organizations within the Korean peninsula / The battalion is currently located at USAG Humphreys 45 miles south of Seoul / Serving proudly in the Republic of Korea since the start of the Korean War in 1950, the unit served in all ten campaigns of the war and received three Meritorious Unit Commendations / The battalion's motto is "Pret, Toujours Pret!" or "Ready, Always Ready!"

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BRYDGES**
THOMAS E.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Captain Thomas E. Brydges was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Damstadt, Germany / Captain Brydges served the sixth year of his U.S. Army enlistment, deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

Fort Sill, Oklahoma - Fort Sill is a United States Army post north of Lawton, Oklahoma, about 85 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. It covers almost 94,000 acres / The fort was first built in 1869 during the Indian Wars and was home to the 7th Cavalry, the 19th Kansas Volunteers and the 10th Cavalry, a distinguished group of black "buffalo soldiers" / It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and serves as home of the United States Army Field Artillery School, as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States



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Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / It has played a significant role in every major American conflict since 1869

Darmstadt, Germany - USAG (United States Army Garrison) Darmstadt is located in the Hessa province from the southwestern part of Germany and was the headquarters for the 233d Base Support Battalion (BSB) / The military base used to host the headquarters of the US Army Garrison / The site includes three camps: Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne, the KB – Kelley Barracks – and the NHD – Nathan Hale Depot / The base was inactivated since 2008 and is no longer has any military purposes site

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Thomas Brydges enrolled at Syracuse University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree and Juris Doctor Degree / Brydges went to work for Jaekle Fleischmann and Mugel as a Labor Attorney, retiring in 2016 after 43 years of employment / Brydges was an active volunteer for the American Red Cross / Thomas Brydges assisted at the Military Entrance Processing Center in Niagara Falls and served as a Trustee on the boards of the Earl W. Brydges Artpark, Daemen College and the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site / Thomas E. Brydges passed away on 14 December 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUCHHOLZ**
JOSEPH

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph "Joe" Buchholz served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Buchholz was a member of U.A. Steamfitters and Plumbers Local 22 for over 30 years / Joseph "Joe" Buchholz passed away on 28 October 2022 at the age of 74 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUCHNER**

JAMES I.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

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 James Irving Buchner served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman and was Killed In Action on 23 January 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile action in Kontum province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Buchner was a graduate of Lake Shore High School / Prior to entering the U.S. Army, Buchner worked at the family-owned Woodbine Tavern in Derby and Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / James Irving Buchner was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a



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light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

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

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

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for the Marine Corps

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

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: **BUDNEY**

RONALD

T.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Cloass Ronald T. Budney served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUETTNER**

JAMES

P.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 1975

Unit / Squadron:

82ND AIRBORNE

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Buettner went to work for Arcada Graphics after his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, retiring after 35 years of employment / James P. Buettner passed away at the age of 71 years old on 10 February 2023

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into denied areas with a U.S. Department of Defense requirement to "respond to crisis contingencies anywhere in the world within 18 hours" / Based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was constituted, originally as the 82nd Division, in the National Army on 5 August 1917, shortly after the American entry into World War I / It was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Huế – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months / While the 3rd Brigade was deployed, the division created a provisional 4th Brigade, consisting of 4th Battalion, 325th Infantry;



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3d Battalion, 504th Infantry; and 3d Battalion, 505th Infantry / An additional unit, the 3d Battalion, 320th Artillery, was activated under Division Artillery to support the 4th Brigade

Name: **BUGELSKI**
PAUL J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- ☒ **Vietnam Era**
☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CMDR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Commander Paul Joseph Bugelski was commissioned in June 1969 as part of the Naval Academy Class of 1969, Ninth Company

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Joseph Bugelski passed away on 18 September 2022 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Arlington National cemetery, Virginia



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BUKOWSKI

JOHN

L.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Bukowski was a member of the American Legion Post #0721 in South Buffalo / Bukowski worked for Republic Steel / John L. Bukowski passed away on 13 April 2020



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURGER**

CARL

R.

Hometown: EAST AURORA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Carl R. Burger was deployed for 18 month of foreign duty, including Vietnam where he served as an Aircraft Hydraulic/Pneumatic Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia - Commonly abbreviated MCB Quantico, Marine Corps Base Quantico is a United States Marine Corps installation located near Triangle, Virginia, covering nearly 86.169 square miles) of southern Prince William County, Virginia, northern Stafford County, and southeastern Fauquier County / Used primarily for training purposes, MCB Quantico is known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps" / In 1917, Marine Barracks, Quantico was established and thousands of Marines were trained at Quantico during World War I / In 1934, Amphibious Warfare Doctrine, along with special amphibious landing crafts for World War II were developed at Quantico / These Amphibious Warfare techniques, developed in the years before World War II, made victory possible in the Pacific theater / Quantico trained over 15,000 USMC and other service officers in Amphibious Warfare techniques / The first Marine Aircraft Wing was developed at Quantico, as well as the Corps' first helicopter squadron, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), the first helicopter squadron to provide rapid transportation for Presidents of the United States ("Marine One")

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina - MCAS Cherry Point is a United States Marine Corps airfield located in Havelock, North Carolina, in the eastern part of the state / Cherry Point was built in 1941, and was commissioned in 1942 and is currently home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing / Cherry Point's primary World War II mission was to train units and individual Marines for service to the Pacific theater / The air station also served as a base for anti-submarine operations, with an Army Air Corps (22d Antisubmarine Squadron) and later a Navy squadron each being responsible for the sinking of a German U-boat just off the North Carolina coast



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during 1943 / Cherry Point's contribution to the Korean War effort was to provide a steady stream of trained aviators and air crewmen as well as maintenance and support personnel as replacements to forward deployed aviation units / During the Vietnam War, Cherry Point deployed three A-6 Intruder squadrons to the Far East and again provided a constant source of replacements for aircrews and enlisted aviation personnel / The air station and its associated support locations occupy more than 29,000 acres / Its runway system is large enough that the air station served as an alternate emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle launches out of Cape Canaveral, Florida

Miscellaneous:

Carl Burger was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 7 September 1973 / Carl R. Burger passed away on 24 June 2022 at the age of 72 years old

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BURNS

JAMES

E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

2ND PLATOON, COMPANY H, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION,
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

1ST MARINE DIVISION, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

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:

Private First-Class James Edward Burns served as a Machine Gunner in Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, H Company / PFC Burns was Killed In Action on 7 December 1967 as a result of an explosive device while fighting hostile forces in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

PFC James Burns joined the U.S. Marine Corps on 5 April 1967 and began his deployment to Vietnam on 10 October 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Burns graduated from School #52 and attended McKinley Vocational High School / James Edward Burns was 18 years of age at the time of his passing

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



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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 operation

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

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



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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

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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

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BURNS JR.

JOHN J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 11 COBURG STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

APRIL 1965

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John James Burns, Jr. served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Burns, Jr. was Killed In Action on 11 February 1970 during a mortar attack on Fire Base Rifle, 40 miles northwest of Danang, South Vietnam

SP4 John James Burns, Jr. was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Burns graduated in 1963 from St. Joseph Collegiate Institute where he was a member of the Track Team / Burns was a 1967 graduate of Canisius College where he was a member of the Track team and the Cross Country Team and also coached the basketball team during his senior year / John Burns attended graduate school for a year at the University of Massachusetts and was an examiner-trainee for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. before joining the military / John James Burns, Jr. was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

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



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units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 502nd Infantry Regiment (502nd IR), previously titled the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (502nd PIR), is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment was established shortly after U.S. entry into World War II, and was assigned as a regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / "The Screaming Eagles", one of the most decorated formations of the U.S. Army / The regiment saw substantial action in the European Theater of World War II and was inactivated in 1945, shortly after the end of the war / Reactivating in a new form in 1956, the 502nd Infantry has served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq / The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was deployed to South Vietnam in April 1965 and left Vietnam in December 1971 / Since 1974, the regiment has been classified as an Air Assault unit

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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: **BURROUGHS JR**
JUDGE

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- ☐ **Vietnam Era**
☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, 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 Judge Burroughs, Jr. served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Burroughs was Killed In Action on 8 August 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile action at LZ (landing zone) Juliet, Pleiku province, South Vietnam

On 02 August 1966, Operation PAUL REVERE II was launched to deny areas of the rich rice fields to the famished Viet Cong / Significant contact with the enemy did not occur until 08 August, at LZ Juliet / Company "A", 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry came under heavy fire from a reinforced enemy battalion / In several hours of intense fighting, Alpha Company turned back repeated mass attacks / Timely artillery and air strikes eliminated the opportunity for the enemy to surround the Skytroopers / The roar of helicopters from two companies from the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry arriving at LZ Juliet frightened the enemy, causing them to flee

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Judge Burroughs, Jr. was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Pine Hill Cemetery, Bessemer, Alabama

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



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units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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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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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUTTON**

HOWARD

E.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **SFC**

Year Entered: **1954**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

"A" COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBOURNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Howard Earl Button served in Vietnam for 17 months as an Infantryman / SFC Button was Killed In Action on 31 January 1968 as a result of hostile enemy action in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Howard Earl Button had served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 - 1954, serving on the USS Toledo and the USS Albuquerque / In 1954, Button joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 101st Airborne Division

Base Assignments:

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky-Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration



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Team

Miscellaneous:

Howard Button left Olean High School in 1951 to join the Navy / Howard Earl Button was 33 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hill Crest Memorial Cemetery, Paris, Tennessee

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

The 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 1972

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Town of West Seneca, New York

case posthumously

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Town of West Seneca, New York

President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BZIBZIAK

JOHN

S.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 BRONZE STARS

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: .45 CAL. PISTOL.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal John S. Bzibziak served as a Light Weapons Infantryman during his tour of Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Bzibziak worked for the Ford Motor Stamping Plant in Blasdell, New York, retiring as a Production Laborer / John S. Bzibziak passed away on 19 February 2023 at the age of 74 years old

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for



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support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The 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 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