



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CALABRESE**
JOSEPH

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

16TH AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

4 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Joseph Calabrese was deployed to Vietnam for 25 months, serving as an Airplane Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Calabrese was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 3 June 1970 / Joseph Calabrese passed away on 28 September 2019

The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade is a Combat Aviation Brigade of the United States Army and was activated on 23 January 1968 / The Brigade was headquartered in Da Nang, South Vietnam / The 16th Aviation provided aerial reconnaissance, surveillance and aviation assault in support of the Vietnam war effort

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



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Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

The 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: CALABRESE

PETER

V.

Hometown:

Address:

BUFFALO

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: ASE2

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Aviation Support Equipment Technician (Electrical) Petty Officer 2nd Class (ase2)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter V. Calabrese was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) is the United States Navy's third Nimitz-class supercarrier / She is named for Carl Vinson, a Congressman from Georgia, in recognition of his contributions to the U.S. Navy / The ship was commissioned on 13 March 1982 / She undertook her maiden voyage in 1983, and underwent refueling and overhaul between 2005 and 2009 / Besides deployments in Operation Desert Strike, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Southern Watch, and Operation Enduring Freedom, Carl Vinson was involved in a number of notable events / The body of Osama bin Laden was buried at sea in 2011 from the deck of Carl Vinson, and that same year, on Veterans Day, she played host to the first NCAA basketball game on an aircraft carrier, between North Carolina and Michigan State

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

The 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: **CALABRO JR.**

FRANK

P.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

4TH BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503RD AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

PARACHUTE BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Frank Peter Calabro, Jr. served as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic in the US Army Ordnance Corps during 14 months of active duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Calabro, Jr. received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 30 July 1971 / Frank Peter Calabro, Jr. passed away on 15 December 2020

The 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II; at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in Okinawa, Japan; and in Germany / Regimental elements have been assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, the 11th Airborne Division, the 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War / In May 1965, two battalions of the 503rd Infantry deployed as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Vietnam as the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed, joined later by 4-503rd Infantry and 3-503rd Infantry / During its six years in Vietnam, the four battalions of the 503rd participated in fourteen campaigns, earning two Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit



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Commendation / The 2nd Battalion), 503rd Infantry participated in the only combat jump of the war during "Operation Junction City" in 1967 / It redeployed to the U.S. in July 1971, having the distinction of being one of the last units to leave Vietnam / The 503rd Infantry participated in Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II, ten from Vietnam, and three from 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 / 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 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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Name: **CALLAGHAN**

DENNIS

P.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Dennis Patrick Callaghan served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Cpl Callaghan was Killed In Action on 6 May 1970 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile enemy action in Quang Ngai province, South Vietnam

On 6 May 1970, during a combat patrol north of the Nhuan Hoa hamlet in Binh Son District, members of Cpl Callaghan's battalion encountered enemy sniper fire / During the engagement, Corporal Dennis Callaghan and another soldier were killed by hostile rifle fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Callaghan was a graduate of St. Mary's-on-the-Lake Elementary School and graduated from Frontier Central High School / Callaghan attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill for 2 years prior to entering the U.S. Army in 1969 / Dennis Patrick Callaghan was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans, 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



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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 198th Infantry Brigade, was first formed as part of the United States Army Reserve's 99th Division and was active from 1967 through 1971 / During the years of 1967–1971 as part of the Vietnam War, the 198th was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division / In 1968, elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade participated in the Battle of Kham Duc / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

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

The 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



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while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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The 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: **CAMMARATA**
SALVATORE

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS 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 Salvatore Cammarata served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman and was stationed at an ammunition dump in Tay Ninh about 100 miles from Saigon, South Vietnam / SP4 Cammarata was Killed In Action on 4 February 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile enemy action

Operation Gadsden was conducted by the 25th Infantry Division in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, during 2-12 February 1967 / The action was planned as a deception maneuver ahead of Operation Junction City in which the 25th Infantry Division sought to engage the North Vietnamese Army's 271st Regiment in the western area of War Zone C / Following B-52 bombing strikes against suspected base areas of the 271st Regiment, eight U.S. infantry battalions moved into the area and seized two abandoned border villages, Lo Go and Xom Giua, which had served as supply depots from the Sihanouk Trail in Cambodia, a network of roads and trails that provided manpower and materiel to the Viet Cong / About three miles southeast of the Lo Go border post, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade created a forward operating base / On 4 February 1967, the base was subjected to an enemy mortar attack, resulting in the death of four U.S. personnel / Killed in the barrage were SP4 Salvatore Cammarata, PFC Robert F. Helveston, SGT Joseph R. Martinez, and PFC John Storelli

Base Assignments:

Fort Devens, Massachusetts - Fort Devens is a United States Army Reserve military installation in Worcester County in Massachusetts and was established on 5 September 1917 / It was named after jurist and Civil War



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

Miscellaneous:

Salvatore Cammarata attended Bishop Ryan High School and worked at Bethlehem Steel Corp before enlisting in the U.S. Army / Salvatore Cammarata was 20 years old at the time of his passing

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal

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without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: **CAMPBELL**

CHARLES

A.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **NAVY**

Rank: **E-8**

Year Entered: **1959**

Year Discharged: **1981**

Unit / Squadron:

USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)

Medals / Citations:

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

NAVY "E" RIBBON (2 AWARDS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL W/1 GOLD STAR (6 AWARDS)

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

Service Notes:

Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles A. Campbell served as an Electrician's Mate / SCPO Campbell served in the US Navy from 1959 through 1981

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles A. Campbell was Honorably Discharged and retired from the US Navy after 24 of active duty / Charles A. Campbell passed away on 28 November 2021

USS Saipan (LHA-2) was a Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship, the second United States Navy ship named in honor of the World War II Battle of Saipan / From February to April 1980, Saipan was involved in Anorak Express 80 / The Navy crew of around 800 and an entire Marine battalion of over 2,000 sailed from Norfolk to Norway / In September 1983, while undergoing Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Saipan was diverted to participate in Operation Urgent Fury off Grenada / From September 1991 to March 1992, Saipan deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm / In 1999, Saipan became the developmental and operational test platform for the V-22 Osprey aircraft / In January 2003, the Saipan was deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terrorism / The USS Saipan was commissioned on 15 October 1977 / Saipan was decommissioned on 20 April 2007 at her home port in Naval Station Norfolk / She was used for weapons effect testing, providing vital information on structural integrity and survivability which will assist in the designing and planning of future ships / The USS Saipan was scrapped on 15 October 1977 /



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Saipan's awards include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), Humanitarian Service Medal, Battle Efficiency "E" (four awards), the Admiral Flatley Safety Award (two awards), the Sledge Award, the Atlantic Fleet Surface Force "Admiral's Cup" in 1985, COMPHIBRON Twelve's "Bronze Anchor" for retention excellence, and the 1993 COMNAVSURFLANT Command Excellence Award for Command and Control, Maritime Warfare and Logistics Management

The Navy Achievement Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement or meritorious service of military personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / The Navy Achievement Medal (NAM), is the United States Navy version of the Achievement Medal / The U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal"

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CAPELL

BRUCE

J.

Hometown: WALES CENTER

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:

Bruce Capell graduated from Riverside High School prior to enlisting in the Navy / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Capell went to work for Carborundum Abrasives / Bruce Capell was a lifetime member and volunteer at the American Legion Post 362 in East Aurora, NY / Bruce Joseph Capell passed away on 28 September 2018 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CAPUTA**

JAMES

L.

Hometown: **BLASDELL**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **E-4**

Year Entered: **1968**

Year Discharged: **1970**

Unit / Squadron:

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class James Lee "Jim" Caputa served as a Water Supply Specialist / Caputa was stationed in Vietnam from 1968-1969 with an Engineer Battalion

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Lee "Jim" Caputa received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 10 March 1979 / Caputa was a member of the Patriot Guard Riders for 7 years / James Lee Caputa passed away on 31 October 2021

The Army established the US Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802, and gave the engineers responsibility for founding and operating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point / Throughout the 19th century, the Corps built coastal fortifications, surveyed roads and canals, eliminated navigational hazards, explored and mapped the Western frontier, and constructed buildings and monuments in the Nation's capital / In the 20th century, the Corps became the lead federal flood control agency and significantly expanded its civil works activities, becoming among other things a major provider of hydroelectric energy and the country's leading provider of recreation / Its role in responding to natural disasters also grew dramatically / Assigned the military construction mission in 1941, the Corps built facilities at home and abroad to support the U.S. Army and Air Force / During the Cold War, Army engineers managed construction programs for America's allies, including a massive effort in Saudi Arabia / In addition, the Corps of Engineers also completed large construction programs for federal agencies such as NASA and the postal service / The Corps also maintains a rigorous research and



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development program in support of its water resources, construction, and military activities

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

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

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

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

The 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: **CARLONI**

JAMES

F.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **119 WALTERR STREET**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **MARINE CORPS**

Rank: **PFC**

Year Entered: **1969**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

**2ND PLATOON, COMPANY I, 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION,
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE**

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Francis Carloni served in Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC James Carloni was Killed In Action on 2 December 1969 as a result of an explosive device during hostile enemy action in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

While returning to the PPB (Platoon Patrol Base) from LZ (Landing Zone) Ross the fourth Marine in the column tripped a wire the vicinity of Xuan Que hamlet in Que Son District that detonated a grenade hidden inside of a C-Ration can on the side of the trail / The explosion wounded five Marines and PFC Carloni was killed as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Carloni attended South Park High School and was a member of the Babcock Street Boy's Club / James Francis Carloni was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 7th Marine Regiment is an infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps based at Marine Corps Air



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Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California / Nicknamed the "Magnificent Seventh", the regiment falls under the command of the 1st Marine Division and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / In 1965, the regiment was deployed to South Vietnam / While in service in Vietnam the 7th Marine regiment participated in the following military operations: Operation Starlite, Operation Piranha, Operation Harvest Moon, Operation Mallard, operations Texas and Indiana, Operation Golden Fleece 7-1, Operation Rio Blanco, Operation Shark, Operation Boone, Operation Duval, Operation Desoto, Operation Foster, Tet Offensive, Operation Allen Brook, Operation Mameluke Thrust, Operation Daring Endeavor, Operation Linn River, Operation Meade River, Operation Oklahoma Hills, Operation Taylor Common, Phase I of Operation Pipestone Canyon, the defense of Que Son, Operation Pickens Forest and Operation Imperial Lake / The last elements of 7th Marines departed the Republic of Vietnam 13 October 1970 / The mission of the 7th Marine Regiment is to conduct mechanized, combined-arms operations and other expeditionary operations in order to support theater engagement plans and contingency operations / The regiment will be prepared to deploy within 48-hours of the receipt of an execute order as either the ground combat element for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB) or as a major subordinate element of the 1st Marine Division / As directed, the regiment will prepare infantry battalions for deployment to the Pacific Command (PACOM AOR) in order to support III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) operations and training

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

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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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 Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CARTONIA**

CARMEN

P.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **550 BRECKINRIDGE STREET**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **PFC**

Year Entered: **1965**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST 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:

Private First-Class Carmen Paul Cartoncia served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Carmen Cartoncia was Killed In Action on 4 November 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile enemy action Near Dau Tieng, Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam

PFC Carmen Cartoncia briefly served with his brother, Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph A. Cartoncia, Jr. while both were deployed to South Vietnam / SP4 Joseph Cartoncia, Jr. returned home and honorably discharged on 11 September 1966

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



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Carmen Cartoncia was a graduate of School 1 and McKinley Vocational High School / Cartoncia worked at the Loblaw's Bakery prior to being inducted into the U.S. Army on 19 October 1965 / Carmen Paul Cartoncia was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal

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

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

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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 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: **CARTONIA JR**

JOSEPH

A.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **550 BRECKINRIDGE STREET**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **SP4**

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: **1966**

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph A. Cartoncia, Jr. served in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division

SP4 Joseph Cartoncia was stationed at An Khe, South Vietnam and met with his brother, Private First-Class Carmen Cartoncia when he arrived in Vietnam / SP4 Joseph Cartoncia returned home on 11 September 1966 and received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army / His brother, PFC Carmen Cartoncia was Killed In Action on 4 November 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile action Near Dau Tieng, Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CASILLO

CARMINE

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 213 BERKSHIRE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

ALPHA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

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 Carmine Casillo served in Vietnam as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / PFC Carmine Cassillo was Killed In Action on 7 March 1968 as a result of small arms fire during hostile enemy action in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

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 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



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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:

Carmine Casillo was born in Saint Joseph, Italy before coming to America / Casillo attended Grover Cleveland and McKinley High Schools before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1967 / Carmine Casillo was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (1/3) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii / Nicknamed the "Lava Dogs", the battalion consists of approximately 800 Marines and sailors and falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / On 1 May 1942, the 1st Training Battalion was activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina / A month and a half later, on June 17, the unit was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment / The battalion received its first combat experience in November 1943 against the Japanese in the Battle of Bougainville / The battalion fought with distinction for nearly two months against stiff resistance in difficult terrain before being sent to Guadalcanal and Guam / The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines became the second American infantry unit to enter South Vietnam / The battalion began its movement, via air, to Da Nang Air Base in early March 1965 and completed its movement by mid-March / Less than six months after its arrival, 1/3 was withdrawn to Okinawa / The battalion was sent back to Vietnam on 18 November 1965 / In 1969, the United States began to slowly withdraw combat units from Southeast Asia / One of the first Marine units to be notified to commence stand down operations was 1st Battalion, 3d Marines / The unit departed South Vietnam for the United States on 5 October 1969 / Towards the end of the month the battalion arrived in California and was located at again at Camp Pendleton

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

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

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

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who



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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CATALANO

GEORGE

F.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address: 63 MANG AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 29TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, 550TH ORDNANCE DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class George Francis Catalano began his Vietnam deployment as an Ammunition Helper on 27 April 1967 and died on 30 July 1967 as a result of non-hostile action / PFC Catalano, assigned as an Ordnance Supply Clerk, volunteered to operate a fork lift unloading ammunition in Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam / Catalano was killed after he dismounted the fork lift which moved forward, pinning him against a track trailer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After graduation from St. Paul's Parochial School in Kenmore, George Catalano was a seminarian for three years at Mt. Carmel Seminary, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada / Catalano attended and graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School and attended the University of Buffalo before entering the U.S. Army / George Francis Catalano was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at United German and French Cemetery Cheektowaga, New York

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 / With the deployment of division-sized units, it quickly became apparent that the logistical effort required greater manpower and organization / As a result, the 1st Logistical Command, which had first been activated during the Korean War,



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was deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Saigon on 1 April 1965 / At that time, Vietnam possessed only two ports capable of supporting the ocean-going vessels that brought most American material to Vietnam: one in Da Nang that the U.S. Navy used to provide logistical support to the Marines in I Corps, the other in Saigon, which was needed to provide South Vietnam with most of its imported goods / USARV made the decision to build a major port at Cam Ranh Bay / Utilizing the DeLong pier, which operated by hydraulic lifting devices, Army engineers succeeded in completing the port at Cam Ranh / The development of the ports played a large role in determining the organization of the 1st Logistical Command / Separate U.S. Army Support Commands were established in Saigon, Cam Ranh, Qui Nhon, and, in 1968, when Army units began to serve in I Corps, in Da Nang / Each support command operated independently in maintaining a flow of needed goods to the combat zones / The 1st Log maintained overall control and supervision through the Logistical Operations Control Center located at its Saigon headquarters / The diversity of 1st Logistical Command activities was astounding / Under its command were truck units, boat companies, railroad facilities, and airlift and airdrop capabilities / Almost every piece of Army equipment sent to Vietnam was processed, transported, issued, and maintained by the 1st Logistical Command / Not only was the 1st Logistical Command responsible for providing the Army troops with the basic weapons of war, but it also clothed and fed them and supplied them with virtually every amenity available in Post Exchanges / The 1st Logistical Command was redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas on 7 December 1970 and after more than five years of distinguished service, two of its number had won the Medal of Honor, and thousands of others had maintained the distinction of seeing the American Army the best supplied and best equipped in the world

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The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for



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sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service

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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: CATHERWOOD

ROBERT

G.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 6TH MARINE REGIMENT, 2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Robert Glen Catherwood served in the marine Corps as a Rifleman / Catherwood served a 12-month combat deployment to South Vietnam, and his final duty assignment was with Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force at Camp Lejeune, NC

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 / 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:

After his Honorable Discharge on 20 May 1971 from the United States Marine Corps, Robert Catherwood served as a journeyman ironworker for Ironworkers Local 6, where he worked on various building projects spanning New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Michigan / Catherwood became health and safety inspector with the NYS Department of Labor, later becoming an independent contractor and private consultant teaching various certification classes in environmental safety, including asbestos monitoring and abatement / Robert Glen Catherwood passed away on 23 January 2023

The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (1/6) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and consists of approximately 1,100 marines and sailors / Activated on 11 July 1917 at



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Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, the regiment was deployed to France from September to October 1917 / or the actions at Belleau Wood, Soissons, and Blanc Mont, the 6th Marine Regiment was awarded the French Croix de Guerre three times / The battalion participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne / During World War II, the 6th participated in the final American offensive on Guadalcanal advancing from Kokumbona to Cape Esperance and eliminating the last remaining enemy forces / The 6th Marines suffered 223 casualties (53 killed in action or died of wounds, 170 wounded in action), during its six weeks on the "Canal" / The regiment also participated in the battle for Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian / In September 1945, the unit deployed to Nagasaki where it participated in the Occupation of Japan from September 1945 to June 1946

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CAYLOR

RANDY

L.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY, D 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 Randy Lee Caylor served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman

On 31 July 1971, Specialist Fourth-Class Caylor was involved with a company-sized combat operation on the east slope of Hill 953 in Quang Nam Province, RVN, an area previously occupied the year before by U.S. Marines / "D" Company was dropped off at landing zone half way up the hill, requiring several transport ships to deliver the entire company / Once on the ground, some of the troop noticed a U.S. Army OV-10 Bronco observation plane fly overhead, turn around, and come back / It then started dropping white smoke grenades on a nearby area making them unsure what the crew of the Bronco was trying to tell them since there was no radio contact / Someone shouted there was movement up ahead and several GI's moved forward / The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 82mm mortars began to rain down on "D" Company's position, pinning them down so the enemy could advance / Next was gunfire, grenades, and the RPG's (rocket-propelled grenades) / Within 15 minutes of landing, several men were killed, including SP4 Randy Caylor (who was hit by mortar fire) / American air assets began dropping napalm and 500-pound bombs, and eventually "D" Company took Hill 953 / A later intelligence report said they had run into a large unit of hard core NVA, dug in and ready to fight / Two days after taking the hill, it was abandoned by U.S. forces

Base Assignments:



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Miscellaneous:

Randy Lee Caylor was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Worthville Cemetery, Worthville, Pennsylvania

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal

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

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Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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

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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: CENDROWSKI JR

EDWARD

F.

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:

Edward F. Cendrowski, Jr. served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward F. Cendrowski, Jr. passed away on 21 January 2024 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CERA

RICHARD J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

ABLE COMPANY, 4TH BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR REGIMENT, 197TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (PISTOL)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (TANK WEAPONS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Richard J. Cera served as an Armor Crewman during 13 months of foreign service with US Army Pacific

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Cera retired from the United States Postal Service after 41 years / Richard J. Cera passed away on 27 May 2023 at the age of 76 years old

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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present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The 69th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The battalion shipped from Okinawa to Vietnam in December 1965 / The battalion's first major combat operation took place in April 1966 in the tangled jungle growth of the Ho Bo Woods and along the trails of the Filhol Rubber plantation again, northwest of Saigon / Able Company was charged with the security of Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Pass, and on 10 April, routed a regimental size ambush attempt on a convoy by the 95B Regiment killing 45 VC and capturing seven crew-served weapons; U.S. losses were one killed / The battalion continued operations west of Pleiku and along the coastal plain during 1969 with both the 4th Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade / The 197th Infantry Brigade is an active Infantry brigade of the United States Army / In late 1965 an infantry battalion of the 197th Infantry Brigade was inactivated at Fort Benning to provide personnel for expanding the Army in Vietnam / In early 1973, to provide personnel needed for the Infantry School, Continental Army Command directed that the school support troops be reorganized and the 197th be restructured as a unit in the Strategic Army Force



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHAMBLEY**
THEODORE R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 1448 FILLMORE AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1946

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Theodore Roosevelt Chambley served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Theodore Chambley was Killed In Action on 16 October 1965 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during hostile enemy action

During a "search and destroy" combat operation near Bien Hoa, central South Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Chambley was wounded in the right thigh and left shoulder / SSG Chambley died during surgery

SSG Theodore Chambley enlisted in the U.S. Army on 22 March 1946 and served in Germany and Japan before being deployed to Vietnam

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



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Miscellaneous:

Theodore Chambley was born in Winston Salem, North Carolina / Theodore Roosevelt Chambley was 38 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 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The 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

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CHENEY

GERALD

M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CMSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Chief Master Sergeant Gerald M. Cheney served multiple tours in Vietnam

CMSgt Gerald Cheney served in the Air Force for over thirty years / Cheney working in avionics support wings at many Air Force Bases in the United States

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After a long illness, Gerald M. Cheney passed away on 16 October 2023 and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CHIMERA JR

JOHN

V.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

3RD ARMORED CALVARY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John V. Chimera, Jr. passed away on 31 October 2023 at the age of 77 years old

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment, formerly 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment ("Brave Rifles") is a regiment of the United States Army currently stationed at Fort Cavazos, Texas / The regiment has a history in the United States Army that dates back to 19 May 1846, when it was constituted in the Regular Army as the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri / This unit was reorganized at the start of the American Civil War as the 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment on 3 August 1861 / In January 1943, the regiment was re-designated as the 3rd Cavalry Group (Mechanized) / Today they are equipped with Stryker vehicles / The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was the last heavy armored cavalry regiment in the U.S. Army until it officially became a Stryker regiment on 16 November 2011 / It will retain its lineage as the 3rd Cavalry Regiment / The Regiment saw combat action in World War I and World War II / During the 1960's, the 3rd Cavalry Armored Regiment was deployed to Germany in response to the Soviet threat during the Berlin Crisis



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHLUDZINSKI**

JOHN

F.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Chludzinski worked for the United States Postal Service as a Maintenance Manager / John F. Chludzinski passed away on 29 August 2022 at the age of 72 years old.



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHMIEL, SR.**

GERALD

M.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Gerald M. Chmiel, Sr. served as a Wireman while on active duty in Vietnam

Gerald M. Chmiel, Sr. also served 2 years active duty in the Army from 1964-1966

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Chmiel, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from active military service on 24 march 1966 and Honorably Discharged from the Marine Corps Reserve on 27 September 1977 / Gerald M. Chmiel, Sr. passed away on 28 October 2018

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

The modern 2nd infantry Regiment traces its lineage to 12 April 1808 and constituted in the regular Army as a Company of the 6th Infantry / The Regiment was baptized by fire during the War of 1812 / In the years that followed, the 2nd Infantry fought in the Seminole War and numerous other Indian Campaigns / During the Mexican War, the 2nd Infantry Campaigned from the Rio Grande to Vera Cruz to Mexican city / It was designated on 22 May 1816 as Company B, 2nd Infantry / During the Civil War the 2nd Infantry fought in 23 major engagements / From 1877 to 1898, the 2nd Infantry fought in a series of Indian campaigns in the Pacific Northwest / In 1898 the regiment fought in the Spanish-American War, participating in the battles of Santiago



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and San Juan Hill, where it fought side-by-side with Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" / In 1899 the 2nd Infantry went to the Philippines to deal with the Philippine insurrection / Four years later, the regiment returned to duty in the western United States, only to be re-deployed to the Philippines in 1906 / During World War I, the regiment was assigned to the Hawaiian Islands, and the war ended just as the regiment was about to deploy to France / In World War II, the 2nd Infantry Regiment fought as part of the 5th Infantry Division in Patton's famous Third Army, leading the way in the breakout from the beaches of Normandy in operation Cobra, capturing the ancient capital of Rheims and seizing Metz after a major battle at Fort Driant / The 2nd Infantry Regiment forced a crossing of the Sauer River and attacked into the Siegfried Line / The Regiment Crossed the Rhine River near the Oppenheim and secured crossing for other Third Army units / The unit then spearheaded the attack into Czechoslovakia and was located near the town of Voltray when the word came to cease all forward movement on 7 May 1945 / In 1965, the 2nd Infantry was deployed to Vietnam and fought initially as light infantry in the North and West of Saigon / Major operations included: Junction City, the largest operation conducted at that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyon, An Loc and An Loc II, plus numerous smaller operations / The 2nd Infantry received 3 Valorous unit awards and two awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of gallantry, with Palm, for its distinguished service / The Battalion successfully deployed to Bosnia in support of operation Joint Guard, where the Unit was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for actions such as Brcko riots and Hill 56 / In June 2008, the unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan, where it continued to serve into 2009

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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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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: CHRIST

DENNIS

G.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis G. Christ passed away on 19 December 2022 and was interred at the White Chapel Memorial Park



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CHRISTIANO SR

FRANCIS

J.

Hometown: GETZVILLE

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1961

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Francis J. "Frank" Christiano Sr. served in the Army National Guard for six years as a Medic while stationed at a military hospital in San Antonio, Texas

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis Christiano graduated from Burgard Vocational High School in 1959 where he lettered in baseball, basketball and cross country / Christiano was a talented baseball catcher with many amateur baseball teams in Buffalo / In 1998, Christiano was selected for the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame / Francis Christiano became a union plumber with Local 22 of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Steamfitters, retiring as a Master Plumber in the early 1990s / Christiano was a part owner of the Park Lane Restaurant in Buffalo and with his brother, started the Fil-Flora Realty property management company in 1979, retiring after 30 years / Francis J. "Frank" Christiano Sr. passed away at the age of 82 years old on 27 November 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHUBBUCK**

MICHAEL

F.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Michael Francis Chubbuck served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Cpl Michael Chubbuck was Killed In Action on 3 June 1968 by small arms fire during hostile enemy action at the Plain of Reeds, Kin Ton Doc Canal, Dinh Tuong province, South Vietnam

Corporal Michael Chubbuck was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery when during combat operations, Cpl Chubbuck threw a grenade into a bunker and crawled in, capturing a Viet Cong Company Commander and the Commander's Executive Officer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Francis Chubbuck was 21 years of age at his passing and is interred at Saint Augustine Cemetery, Lancaster, 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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The 39th Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment in the United States Army / Originally organized for service in World War I, the 39th fought in most of the conflicts involving the United States during the 20th century, and since 1990 the 2nd Battalion has served as a training unit stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina / The 3rd Battalion was started on 21 October 2015 and a 4th Battalion was added in July 2017 / During World War II the regiment fought as part of the 9th Infantry Division / The Fighting Falcons of the 39th became the first unit of United States combat troops to set foot on foreign soil when they stormed the beaches of Algiers in November 1942 / During World War II, the 39th Regiment saw battle action in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, The Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe / During the Vietnam War, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions, 39th Infantry Regiment were reactivated on 1 February 1966 as part of the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas / The 39th deployed in 1966 with the 9th Infantry Division to South Vietnam / The regiment participated in Operation Palm Tree, the 1968 Tet Offensive, and the battle of the Plain of Reeds / The 39th Infantry Regiment returned to Hawaii and deactivated in September, 1969

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CLAY

JON

A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CLINTON

GARY

M.

Hometown: BLASDELL

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Clinton was a member of the American Legion Post #567 in Orchard Park / Gary M. Clinton passed away on 12 November 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CLINTON

LEMUEL

A.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Lemuel Clinton was employed by General Motors where he worked for 35 years until his retirement / Lemuel A. Clinton passed away on 29 March 2022



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **COBB**

JAMES

P.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James Paul Cobb was deployed to Vietnam on 31 August 1970 and served as a Helicopter Repairman / Sgt Cobb was Killed In Action on 15 February 1971 when his plane crashed after rescuing a fellow soldier

On 15 February 1971, Sergeant James Cobb as the Crew Chief, was part of the crew onboard US Army helicopter UH-1H #68-16554 from B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry / Their mission had been to extract a wounded Ranger in stormy monsoon weather / After the successful extraction the helicopter was returning to base and was making an approach for a night landing during inclement weather at the Phu Bai airfield in Thua Tien Province when it crashed, killing Sergeant James Paul Cobb and six other military personnel onboard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Paul Cobb was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Mary of the Assumption Cemetery in Lancaster, New York

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



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

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

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

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

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



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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 Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

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

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

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

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

Sergeant James Paul Cobb was also awarded the following medals

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **COHO II**

ROBERT

D.

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Douglas "Bob" Coho II passed away on 25 December 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COLAFRANCESCHI
ALBERT

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- ☒ Vietnam Era
☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Albert Colafranceschi retired from the Ford Motor Company where he had been employed as a Machine Repairman / Colafranceschi also served as a volunteer Fireman / Albert "Al Cola" Colafranceschi passed away on 26 March 2019



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COLERN
ERNEST

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

ARMOR BRANCH

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART W/1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER

ARMY AIR MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE (M-14)

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

Service Notes:

Ernest "Ernie Colern served in the Army as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Colern served in Vietnam for 12 months and was wounded in combat action twice, earning a Purple Heart (2)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ernest Colern was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 14 May 1968 / Ernest "Ernie" Colern passed away on July 2021

The Armor Branch is a command centric branch that prepares officers to command combined arms formations across the full spectrum of military operations / The Armor Branch serves two primary functions in support of unified land operations: firstly, to provide combined arms formations the capability to close with and destroy the enemy using fire, maneuver, and shock effect ; secondly, to provide cavalry and scout formations the capabilities to perform reconnaissance and security during combined arms maneuver and wide area security operations

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

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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

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



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Name: **COLLARD JR.**

RICHARD

W.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Collard, Jr. was a longtime salesman for RWC Enterprises and an employee of Tops Markets / Richard W. Collard, Jr. passed away on 18 August 2021 at the age of 77 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COLLINGRIDGE

WAYNE

M.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A2C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman Second Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne M. Collingridge passed away at the age of 79 years old on 9 May 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONDIDA**

JOSEPH

A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM

3 OVERSEAS BARS

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph A. Condidia served as a Power Plant Operator/Mechanic during his three tours of Vietnam (19 1/2 months) with the 1st Air Cavalry

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Condidia was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 13 September 1968 / Condidia was 100% disabled from exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam / Joseph A. Condidia passed away on 7 March 2017

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 Hood, Texas and was formed in 1921, serving during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / 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 Air Cavalry was sent to Vietnam in 1965 and their first major operation in Vietnam was to help relieve the Siege of Plei Me near Pleiku and the pursuit of the withdrawing People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) which culminated in the Battle of Ia Drang / Because of that battle the division earned the Presidential Unit Citation (US), the first unit to receive such in the war / In 1966, the division



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attempted to root the communist Viet Cong (VC) and PAVN out of Bình Định Province with Operation Masher, Operation Crazy Horse and Operation Thayer / 1967 was then spent conducting Operation Pershing, a large scale search and destroy operation of PAVN/VC base areas in II Corps in which 5,400 PAVN/VC soldiers were killed and 2,000 captured / In 1970 the division took a defensive posture while US troops withdrawals continued from Vietnam / On 29 April 1971 the bulk of the division was withdrawn to Fort Hood, Texas, but its 3rd Brigade remained as one of the final two major US ground combat units in Vietnam, departing 29 June 1972 / In the Vietnam War, the 1st Air Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

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

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

The 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

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 /



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONKLIN**

RONALD

R.

Hometown: COLLINS

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR, 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 Ronald Raymond Conklin was deployed to Vietnam on 26 August 1968 and served as an Armor Crewman / SP4 Ronald Conklin was Killed In Action on 3 December 1968 when the tank he was operating hit a land mine during hostile enemy action in Binh Thuan province, South Vietnam

Sp4 Conklin served in Germany prior to his volunteer deployment to Vietnam

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

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to house a large portion of the United States' official gold reserves / It is named in honor of Henry Knox, Chief of



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Artillery in the American Revolutionary War and the first United States Secretary of War / A new Armored Force was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox with the 7th Cavalry Brigade becoming the 1st Armored Division / The Armored Force School and the Armored Force Replacement Center were also sited at Fort Knox in October 1940, and their successors remained there until 2010, when the Armor School moved to Fort Benning, Georgia / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the American tanks of the day; the last was the M1 Abrams main battle tank / In 2011, the U.S. Army Armor School moved to Fort Moore, Georgia, where the Infantry School is also based

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Conklin was born in Brant and attended Gowanda Central High School prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army / Ronald Raymond Conklin was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Brant Cemetery, Brant, New York

An Armor Crewman is a highly trained soldier who operates and maintains the M1 Abrams tank, which is the backbone of the U.S. Army's armored forces / They work as part of a team to operate armored equipment and fire weapons to destroy enemy positions / During combat, their role is to operate tanks and amphibious assault vehicles to engage and destroy the enemy

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

The 69th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The 69th Armor Regiment is part of the U.S. Army Regimental System / The 1st Battalion was deployed to South Vietnam on 25 January 1966 with the Battalion laying over in Okinawa to take over 52 new M48A3 tanks and familiarize crews with the new series, AN-GRC 12 radios / "A" Company was committed within two hours of its disembarking from LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) in Saigon as a reaction force to combat in the Filhol Rubber Plantation west of Saigon / The battalion's first major combat operation took place in April 1966 in the tangled jungle growth of the Ho Bo Woods and along the trails of the Filhol Rubber plantation northwest of Saigon / This operation proved the value of armor in reducing friendly casualties while significantly increasing losses to the enemy / 69th Armor tankers learned on-the-job the importance of rear and flank security, the effect of canister in dense jungle, the exaggerated needs for constant maintenance halts / "A" Company completed its mission with the 1st Cavalry in October 1967 and returned to Camp Enari with Battalion HQ / "A" Company was charged with the security of Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Pass, and on 10 April 1968, routed a regimental size ambush attempt on a convoy by the 95B Regiment killing 45 Viet Cong and capturing seven crew-served weapons; U.S. losses were one killed / The battalion continued operations west of Pleiku and along the coastal plain during 1969 with both the 4th Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade / The 1st Battalion stood down with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and returned to the U.S. in mid-1970 / The unit and its component line companies were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Award, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Vietnam Civic Action Award First Class

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONNORS**
MICHAEL

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

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

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Connors retired from the Veterans Administration



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CONROY

JOSEPH

C.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Conroy graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1961 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Conroy went to work for Bethlehem Steel, retiring after many years of work / Joseph C. Conroy passed away on 16 November 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONSTANTINO**

ERIC

R.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **MARINE CORPS**

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Eric Russel Constantino served one year of combat duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Eric Constantino graduated from Grover Cleveland High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps, Constantino went to work for the United States Postal Service / Constantino joined the City of Buffalo Fire Fighters, Ladder 9 and served for twenty years from 1979 through 2000 / Eric Russel Constantino passed away in Largo, Florida on 4 February 2023 at the age of 74 years old / Eric Constantino is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CORBETT

MARK

C.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 149 HARTWELL ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Mark Charles Corbett was deployed to Vietnam on 2 December 1969 as a Medical Corpsman / PFC Mark Corbett was Killed In Action on 27 December 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during hostile enemy action in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On 27 December 1969, PFC Corbett's unit encountered a hostile force in Tay Ninh Province and engaged the enemy in a fire fight / PFC Mark Corbett was mortally wounded by hostile rifle fire, evacuated for treatment, but died shortly after arriving at a Army Medical facility

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Mark Corbett was a 1966 graduate of Cardinal Dougherty High School and attended evening classes at the State University of Buffalo prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army on 10 February 1969 / Mark Charles Corbett was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

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



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Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War

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 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

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 /



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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 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 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: **CORBRAN**
PAUL

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

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

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Paul Corbran served as a Military Policeman while stationed at Bentwaters Air Force Base in England

Base Assignments:

Bentwaters Air Force Base, England - Royal Air Force Bentwaters (RAF Bentwaters), now known as Bentwaters Parks, is a former Royal Air Force station about 80 miles northeast of London and 10 miles east-northeast of Ipswich, near Woodbridge, Suffolk in England / Its name was taken from two cottages ('Bentwaters Cottages') that had stood on the site of the main runway during its construction in 1943 / The station was used by the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War, and by the United States Air Force (USAF) during the Cold War, being the primary home for the 81st Fighter Wing under various designations from 1951 to 1993 / For many years the 81st Fighter Wing also operated RAF Woodbridge, with Bentwaters and Woodbridge airfields being known by the Americans as the "Twin Bases"

Miscellaneous:

Paul Corbran was an Union Ironworker for Local #6 in Buffalo for over 30 years / Paul Corbran passed away on 14 December 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COREY

JAMES

E.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Cory was a member of the National Association of Postal Supervisors / James E. Corey passed away on 1 March 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CORSON

JOHN

H.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 235 NEWFIELD STREET

☒ **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:**

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Richard P. Corson served in Germany

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The brother of John H. Corson, Private First-Class Richard P. Corson, was Killed In Action on 4 March 1966 from multiple gunshot wounds suffered during a 7-hour battle with Viet Cong forces during the battle of Battle at My Phu, Phu Yen province, South Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CORSON

RICHARD

P.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 235 NEWFIELD STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH 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:

Private First-Class Richard P. Corson was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Richard Corson was Killed In Action on 4 March 1966 from multiple gunshot wounds suffered during a 7-hour battle with Viet Cong forces during the battle of Battle at My Phu, Phu Yen province, South Vietnam

PFC Richard Corson received paratrooper training at Ft. Benning Georgia

Base Assignments:

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

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



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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

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

Miscellaneous:

Richard Corson graduated from Riverside High School in 1964 and served as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 147 from Grace Episcopal Church / Corson was employed by Chevrolet Motor Division's River Road plant before entering the U.S. Army in December 1965 / Richard P. Corson was 22 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

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

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration



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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 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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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: **COSTANZO**
FRANK

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

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

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Frank Costanzo served in Vietnam from 1967 through 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Costanzo passed away on 6 April 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **COUGHENOUR**

JOHN

E.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

4TH BATTALION, 76TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class John Edward Coughenour served 13 months with the US Armed Services Pacific in Korea as a General Vehicle Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John E. Coughenour received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 21 March 1968 / John Edward Coughenour passed away in March 2018

The 76th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army / First formed as a cavalry regiment in 1916, the regiment was converted to field artillery in 1917, and served in Europe during World War I with the 3rd Division and as a separate battalion during World War II, as well as in peacetime at Fort Knox, KY, and Fort Devens, MA / Since 1959, the regiment has been a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System and the U.S. Army Regimental System, with regimental elements serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea, and in the Army Reserve

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CRAMER**

PAUL

J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy, Paul Cramer joined the Cheektowaga Police Department and retired as a patrolman / Paul J. Cramer passed away on 30 July 2022 at the age of 78 years old / Cramer is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery in Corfu, NY



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CREAN**

THOMAS

R.

Hometown: LANCASTER

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Crean was a Certified Pilot / Crean retired in 2016 as a Sales Engineer from Penn Power Systems /
Thomas Robert Crean passed away on 12 April 2023 and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga,
New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CRISP**

CHARLES

E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1974

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (HAND GRENADE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Charles E. Crisp served as an Equipment Storage Specialist during his deployment to Okinawa for two years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Crisp was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 14 January 1974 / Charles E. Crisp passed away on 31 May 2018

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: CROMBIE

GARY

D.

Hometown: LANCASTER

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:

Gary Crombie was a retiree of American Axle / Gary D. Crombie passed away on 26 August 2023 at the age of 73 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CROSBY JR

BRUCE

A.

Hometown: SPRINGVILLE

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

8TH RADIO RESEARCH FIELD STATION, 509TH RADIO RESEARCH GROUP, UNITED STATES ARMY
VIETNAM (USARV)

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 Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. deployed to Vietnam as a Terminal Receiving System Repairman on 9 October 1971 and was serving as an advisor to the 4th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps on Hill 550 near Don Toan Mountain and Cua Mai Loc, Cam Lo District, Quang Tri District / Sergeant Bruce Crosby, Jr. was Killed In Action on 30 March 1972 during hostile artillery rocket or mortar fire in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam / The remains of Sergeant Bruce were never recovered

On 30 March 1972, a fire support base known as "Firebase Sarge" on Hill 550 in Cam Lo District, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, was subjected to intense enemy artillery attack / An enemy rocket penetrated a radio bunker on the firebase and exploded inside, igniting demolition charges stored there / The bunker roof caved in and an intense fire ensued / Because of the fire and the ongoing enemy bombardment, other men on the firebase could not attempt to rescue the two radio operators / Sergeant Bruce Crosby, Jr. and Gary Westcott were the two occupants of the radio bunker when it was hit and was lost in the explosion / "Firebase Sarge" was abandoned shortly thereafter, with the remnants of the bunker still burning and everything inside completely destroyed

Sergeant Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. is memorialized on the on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific / This is an American Battle Monuments Commission location



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Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing / A grave marker to remember and honor Bruce A. Crosby, Jr. was placed in Fairview Cemetery, Springville, New York

The 8th Radio Research Field Station (RRFS), 509th Radio Research (RR) Group. "Radio Research" was a secret cover designation for certain units operating under the direction of the U.S. Army Security Agency Group (USASA), Vietnam / All missions of this agency were highly classified / The 8th USASA Field Station handled classified functions related to the safeguarding of the Army and its affiliated activities including signal security and electronic intelligence

The U.S. Army has supported its fighting forces with signals intelligence since World War I / The first permanent organization to do this was established in 1930 as the Signal Intelligence Service / During World War II, the SIS (renamed the Signal Security Service in 1943 and later the Signal Security Agency (SSA) exploited the communications of both Germany and Japan, shortening the war and saving many thousands of American lives / The Signal Security Agency was reorganized as the Army Security Agency (ASA) at Arlington Hall Station, Virginia, on 15 September 1945 / In 1955, ASA took over electronic intelligence (ELINT) and electronic warfare functions previously carried out by the Signal Corps / In the 1960s, ASA was again called upon to assist U.S. forces in the field / On 13 May 1961, the first contingent of Army Security Agency personnel arrived in South Vietnam (setting up an organization at Tan Son Nhut Air Base) to provide support to the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group and help train the South Vietnamese Army / During the early years of conflict, ASA troops in Vietnam were assigned to the 3rd Radio Research Unit / Their primary mission was to locate Viet Cong transmitters operating in the south / With the introduction of large U.S. ground combat elements into South Vietnam in 1965, the ASA organization in-country expanded / The 3rd RRU was replaced by the 509th Radio Research Group, which commanded three battalions and company-size direct support units assigned to all Army divisions / One of the 509th's subordinate battalions was the 224th Aviation Battalion (Radio Research), which pioneered in the introduction of Special Electronic Mission Aircraft (SEMA) to the battlefield / At the height of the war, the 509th Radio Research Group commanded some 6,000 ASA personnel in-country. Meanwhile, the agency itself had greatly expanded, reaching a strength of 30,000 and attaining the status of a major Army field command in 1964 / On 1 January 1977, Headquarters, U.S. Army Security agency, was redesignated as Headquarters, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security 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

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 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: CSATI

MICHAEL

W.

Hometown: ANGOLA

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 Michael W. Csati served two tours of Vietnam / Msgt Csati also served 13 months in Iceland / Csati was assigned to the 107th Division at the Niagara Falls Air Base / In addition to receiving many military citations, Msgt Csati received an accommodation from President Carter

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Csati worked for 24 years at Buffalo General Hospital / Michael W. Csati passed away on 29 July 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CUMMINGS

JAMES

E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 58 GOOD AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

2ND PLATOON, COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT, 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 Cummings was deployed to Vietnam on 5 February 1969 as an Antitank Assaultman / PFC James Cummings was Killed In Action on 23 February 1969 as a result of a head wound received during hostile enemy action while on patrol south of Da Nang, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island - 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 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



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

Miscellaneous:

James Cummings graduated from South Park High School in 1968 / Cummings enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps in July 1968 / James Edward Cummings was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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

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

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



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed



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without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CUNNINGHAM

CLARENCE

B.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 463 DODGE STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Clarence Beno Cunningham was deployed to Vietnam on 2 August 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Clarence Cunningham was Killed In Action on 24 October 1968 as a result of fragmentation wounds to the body from hostile grenades thrown at the Marines at an ambush site, 4 kilometers west southwest of the Nam-O Bridge, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

PFC Cunningham served in the Marines under the name of Clarence Beno Cunningham / His actual correct name was Clarence Beno Cunningham Evans

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 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



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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 Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East during World War II

Miscellaneous:

Clarence Cunningham attended School #37 and graduated from East High School / Cunningham worked at the Bethlehem Steel Plant prior to enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1968 / Clarence Beno Cunningham was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (1/3) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii / Nicknamed the "Lava Dogs", the battalion consists of approximately 800 Marines and sailors and falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / On 1 May 1942, the 1st Training Battalion was activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina / A month and a half later, on June 17, the unit was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment / The battalion received its first combat experience in November 1943 against the Japanese in the Battle of Bougainville / The battalion fought with distinction for nearly two months against stiff resistance in difficult terrain before being sent to Guadalcanal and Guam / The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines became the second American infantry unit to enter South Vietnam / The battalion began its movement, via air, to Da Nang Air Base in early March 1965 and completed its movement by mid-March / Less than six months after its arrival, 1/3 was withdrawn to Okinawa / The battalion was sent back to Vietnam on 18 November 1965 / In 1969, the United States began to slowly withdraw combat units from Southeast Asia / One of the first Marine units to be notified to commence stand down operations was 1st Battalion, 3d Marines / The unit departed South Vietnam for the United States on 5 October 1969 / Towards the end of the month the battalion arrived in California and was located at again at Camp Pendleton

The 26th Marine Regiment (26th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The 26th Marines were activated in 1944 and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and were activated again on 1 March 1966, and fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War / On 1 March 1966 the 26th Marine Regiment was activated at Camp Pendleton initiating the formation of the 5th Marine Division / The regimental headquarters arrived in South Vietnam on 26 April 1967 / In mid-May 1967, following the conclusion of The Hill Fights, the 26th Marines took over responsibility for the area around Khe Sanh from the 3rd Marines as Operation Crockett / The 26th Marines conducted Operation Ardmore a search and destroy mission in the Khe Sanh area from 17 July-31 October 1967 / At the conclusion of Operation Ardmore the Marines commenced Operation Scotland, the defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base and search and destroy missions against People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration / From 21 January 1968 the 26th Marines were under siege at Khe Sanh until the conclusion of Operation Pegasus on 14 April 1968 and were replaced by the 1st Marines on 15 April 1968 / From 11 to 19 March 1970 the regiment redeployed from South Vietnam and was



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inactivated / The 26th Marines were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Khe Sanh as were the Seabees that supported them

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



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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CURRY**

MARVIN

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

☒ **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:

The brother of Marvin Curry, Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. was an Army Platoon Leader in Vietnam who was Killed In Action on 15 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation (grenade) wounds suffered during combat action at Landing Zone X-ray Ia Drang Valley, Pleiku province, South Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CURRY**

RICHARD

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

☒ **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:

The brother of Richard Curry, Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. was an Army Platoon Leader in Vietnam who was Killed In Action on 15 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation (grenade) wounds suffered during combat action at Landing Zone X-ray Ia Drang Valley, Pleiku province, South Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CURRY JR**
WILBUR

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1948

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. was deployed to Vietnam on 16 August 1965 and served as a Light Weapons Infantryman in Vietnam / SSG Curry, Jr. was a Platoon Leader who was Killed In Action on 15 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation (grenade) wounds suffered during combat action at Landing Zone X-ray Ia Drang Valley, Pleiku province, South Vietnam

The Battle of Ia Drang comprised two main engagements that took place on November 14–17, 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley / It was the first major confrontation between the United States and the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War / It became a blueprint for tactics by both sides / The Americans used air mobility, artillery fire and close air support to accomplish battlefield objectives / The NVA learned that they could neutralize that firepower by quickly engaging American forces at very close range

Staff Sergeant Curry, Jr. did multiple deployments to Vietnam / Curry was an advisor to a Vietnamese unit in 1964 and returned to Vietnam in September 1965 with the 173rd Brigade

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 / SSG Curry served in the Korean War and was wounded on 6 March 1953 while leading a patrol

Base Assignments:



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Miscellaneous:

Wilbur Curry graduated from Hutchinson High School / Wilbur Curry, Jr. was 35 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 units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

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

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

The 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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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As a Korean War veteran, Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. received the following honors while serving in South Korea:

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950 by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954

The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea"

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military unit award of the government of South Korea that may be presented to South Korean military units, and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea / It is awarded for exceptional meritorious service to South Korea / The citation may be presented to units that participated in the defense of South Korea as part of the U.N. forces during the Korean War

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CURTIN
PATRICK

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- ☒ Vietnam Era
☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Sergeant Patrick Curtin served in the Special Forces

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CURTISS

ROBERT

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: UTA3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (MCB) FIVE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT OPERATIONS INSIGNIA

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

Service Notes:

Utilitiesman (Air Conditioning) Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert John Curtiss served as a Refrigeration Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam - Naval Support Activity Danang or NSA Danang was a United States Navy logistics support organization located in Danang, South Vietnam active from October 1965 to April 1972 / The logistic establishment at Danang functioned with growing efficiency by mid-1968 as it built new port and shore facilities / Seabees, initially using materials pre-stocked before the war in Advanced Base Functional Component packages, constructed three deep-draft piers for oceangoing ships, two 300 foot wooden piers an Landing Ship, Tank (LST) causeway and the Bridge Cargo Complex that consisted of a 1,600 feet long wharf, 300,000 cubic feet of refrigerated storage space and 500,000 square feet of covered storage space / Amphibious fuel lines were laid along the sea floor to storage tanks ashore at Red Beach Base Area, north of the city and the Marines' Marble Mountain Air Facility to the south / In April 1972 all US Navy facilities in Danang were transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Navy

Miscellaneous:

Robert J. Curtiss was a member and past Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Naval Construction Battalion 5 was commissioned on 25 May 1942 at Camp Allen Virginia / The battalion went to Port Hueneme and shipped out for the first of two deployments in the Pacific during World War II / When the war ended CB 5 was decommissioned in the Philippines / On 10 July 1951 the Battalion was re-commissioned as a Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) / From 1965 to 1972, NMCB FIVE made six consecutive



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deployments to Vietnam / NMCB 5 was the last battalion to deploy to Vietnam March to November 1971 / The battalion had numerous incidents with mines on that deployment / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand and aided in the construction of Nam Phong Air Base / While in Vietnam, NMCB Five was awarded 3 Navy Unit Commendations and 3 Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations

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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 Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation Insignia (also known as a globe device) is a bronze award device that signifies participation in specific campaigns as designated by the Secretary of the Navy / They are commonly awarded to hospital corpsmen, chaplains, and other non-combat roles who have done their duty in a combat zone



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CZAPLA

ANDREW

J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-8

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Senior Chief Petty Officer Andrew J. Czapla served in the United States Navy for thirty years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Andrew J. Czapla passed away on 6 August 2023 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York