



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GAINEY JR.**

ERNEST J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

USS COMSTOCK (LSD-19)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE STAR MEDAL

NYS MEDAL FOR MERIT

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ernest John Gainey Jr. served on ship as a Boiler Technician (BT) / Gainey served 34 months of sea duty aboard the USS Comstock (LSD-19)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ernest Gainey Jr. to served as a highly-respected leader of the Sullivans Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in Buffalo, including Commanding Officer for 10 years, attaining the rank of Lt. Commander / Ernest Gainey was also very involved in other military-related organizations, including the NYS Naval Militia and the U.S. Navy League / Gainey was also a past member of the Patriot Guard Riders / Ernest John Gainey Jr. passed away on 29 June 2020

USS Comstock (LSD-19) was a Casa Grande-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy / She was the first navy ship named in honor of the Comstock Lode in Nevada, discovered in 1859, which was one of the richest deposits of precious metals known in the world / The Comstock was commissioned on 2 July 1945 / Comstock sailed for the Far East 7 July 1950 and arrived at Sasebo, Japan, 12 August, to support the United Nations operations in Korea / She joined in the initial invasion at Inchon, 15 September, and remained there as a repair and salvage vessel until 4 October / She also saw action during the invasion of Wonsan on 26 October / In January 1951 she was assigned as flagship for Mine Squadron 3, and furnished gunfire cover and logistic support



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

during minesweeping operations along the east coast of Korea / Comstock served in several campaigns in the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1969 / The USS Comstock was decommissioned on 20 April 1971 and struck from the Naval Register on 30 June 1976 / Sold for scrapping on 17 October 1984, the Comstock was towed to Taiwan for scrapping

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

The 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

The Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

equivalent higher headquarters

The NYS Medal for Merit may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; or, a non-New York State citizen who is an active member in the New York State organized militia, and as an active member in the New York State organized militia, served with units of the New York State organized militia while on federal active duty for purposes other than training and/or annual training; whose entire service was honorable and who were recipients of a valor, achievement, commendation, or meritorious service decoration, of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross, or whose service was in direct support of combat operations while serving in the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard / This medal shall be awarded only to those persons whose entire service, subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation, shall have been honorable



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GAJ**

THOMAS

L.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

91ST ENGINEER BATTALION

US ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Thomas L. Gaj served 18 months in Alaska as a U1-A Aircraft Repairman

Base Assignments:

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - Fort Belvoir is a United States Army installation in Fairfax County, Virginia, United States / The post was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for American Civil War Union Army general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s / Camp Humphreys was established in World War I as the U.S. Army Engineers Training School / It served as the post-graduate institution for U.S. Military Academy engineers and a finishing school for engineering troops headed to war

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Gaj was received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 19 May 1971 / Thomas L. Gaj passed away on 14 May 2022

The Transportation Corps is a combat service support branch of the U.S. Army / It is responsible for the movement of personnel and material by truck, rail, air, and sea. It is one of three U.S. Army logistics branches, the others being the Quartermaster Corps and the Ordnance Corps / The Vietnam War saw the most diversified assortment of transportation units ever assembled / For over a decade the Transportation Corps provided continuous support for American and allied forces through an unimproved tropical environment using watercraft, amphibians, motor trucks and Transportation Corps aircraft



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 91st Engineer Battalion was a military engineer unit in the United States Army / The Battalion served in World War II, mainly in the Pacific region and also served in Bosnia and Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom / The 91st Engineer Battalion was deactivated at Fort Hood on 8 July 2005 as a result of the transformation of the United States Army / On 16 October 2013, it was assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and activated at Fort Hood, Texas

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GALBRAITH**

RODNEY

Q.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY HEADQUARTERS (HQ) BATTALION, 2ND MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM AND
GOLD FRAME

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVISE

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL W/"V"

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Rodney Quay Galbraith attended Naval Justice School and served as a Legal Clerk

Base Assignments:

Naval Justice School - Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Justice School (NJS) is an educational institution of the United States Navy whose mission is to instruct Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel in the fundamental principles of military justice, civil and administrative law, and procedure / The Naval Justice School was founded in 1946 and moved to Newport, Rhode Island in 1950 from Port Hueneme, California

Miscellaneous:

Rodney Q. Galbraith was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The mission of the Headquarters Company, HQ Ballion, 2nd Marine Division is to train, administer, and sustain Marines in order to ensure their individual readiness and enable Marine supported organizations to concentrate on their respective missions

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level

The 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 "V" device is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GANG**

WAYNE

T.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

4TH BATTALION, 60TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Wayne Thomas Gang, Sr. was deployed to Vietnam for 18 months active duty, assigned as a Medical Specialist / While serving in Vietnam, Specialist 4th Class Gang Sr. received a Letter of Commendation from the Battalion Surgeon for "...remarkable knowledge, tenacious diligence and outstanding devotion to duty which produced dramatic effects and resulted in unprecedented standards of medical support..."

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne Gang, Sr. received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 21 November 1970 / Wayne Thomas Gang, Sr. passed away on 15 May 2018

The Air Defense Artillery Branch is the branch of the United States Army that specializes in anti-aircraft weapons (such as surface to air missiles) / In the U.S. Army, these groups are composed of mainly air defense systems such as the Patriot Missile System, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), and the Avenger Air Defense system which fires the FIM-92 Stinger missile

The 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is an air defense unit of the United States Army / The regiment was constituted on 23 December 1917 in the Regular Army as the 60th Artillery, Coast Artillery Corps and organized at Fort Monroe, Virginia, comprising Regular Army companies and National Guard companies from Virginia and the District of Columbia / The 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was sent to France to fight with the American



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front in World War I, participating in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive armed with 24 155 mm GPF guns / Known as the Fighting Aces, 4th Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, last saw action during the Vietnam War in 1972

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GANGLOFF**
DANIEL

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

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

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GARCIA**
JOSEPH

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: ROSE AVE

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

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

241ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
110TH TRANS COMPANY USARPAC (U.S. ARMY PACIFIC)

Medals / Citations:

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

SP-5 Joseph Garcia was stationed in Hawaii and volunteered for duty in Vietnam / While stationed in Vietnam, Garcia provided perimeter and checkpoint security for his compound while stationed in Long Mai, Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Fort Lee - Opened in 1918, Fort Lee in Prince George County, Virginia was named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee / Fort Lee was the headquarters for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM)/ Sustainment Center of Excellence (SCoE), the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, the U.S. Army Ordnance School, The U.S. Army Transportation School, the Army Logistics University (ALU), Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), and the U.S. Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA)

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii - Located in the County of Honolulu and named after Lieutenant General John McAllister Schofield, Commanding General United States Army August 1888 to September 1895 / Schofield had been sent to Hawaii in 1872 and had recommended the establishment of a naval base at Pearl Harbor / The post was established in 1908 to provide mobile defense of Pearl Harbor and the entire island



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Wheeler Air Force Base, Hawaii - Named Wheeler Field on 11 November 1922 in honor of Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, former commander of Luke Field on Ford Island, killed in the crash of DH-4B, on 13 July 1921 / Wheeler Army Airfield was a primary target and site of the first attack on 7 December 1941, leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor / The Japanese attacked the airfield to prevent the numerous planes there from getting airborne and engaging them / Most of the planes were destroyed, but 12 pilots assigned to the 15th Pursuit Group at Wheeler succeeded in getting their P-36 Hawk and P-40 Warhawk aircraft off the ground, engaged the Japanese in furious dogfights, and scored some of the first American victories of World War II With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service in 1947, Wheeler Army Air Base was re-designated Wheeler Air Force Base / In August 1987, the Secretary of the Interior designated Wheeler AFB as a National Historic Landmark, recognizing it as a site of national significance in the history of the United States and, in particular, World War II in the Pacific

Long Mai, Vietnam - U.S. Army base was located in Minh Long District, Quang Ngai

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Garcia attended West Seneca Senior High School and worked as a Bell Hop at the Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo / Upon graduation from high school in 1968, Garcia enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Fort Dix for basic training / After his honorable discharge, Joseph Garcia became a Special Investigator for Erie County under President Richard Nixon's American Presidency Project / Later Garcia worked for the Ford Motor Company, Hanna Furnace Corporation for eight years, Lasalle Ambulance and Rural Metro / Joseph Garcia is retired and still resides in West Seneca

The 241st Transportation Company was constituted 26 December 1942 as Company D, 494th Port Battalion, Transportation Corps, later reorganized and redesignated 30 June 1943 as the 241st Port Company / On 15 November 1954 the company was again reorganized and redesignated as the 241st Transportation Company / The 241st received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for Vietnam 1966-1967, 1968, 1968-1970 and 1970-1971

The 110th Transportation Company was constituted 10 November 1942 as Company L, 3d Battalion, 466th Quartermaster Truck Regiment / Reorganized and redesignated 23 March 1955 as the 110th Transportation Company and allotted to the Regular Army / the company received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation , Streamer embroidered Vietnam 1965, 1966-1967, 1968, 1968-1970, 1970-1971, 1971-1972 and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered Vietnam, 1971 / The 110th was Inactivated 15 September 1999 in Panama but reactivated 16 October 2008 at Fort Drum, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GARDON**
ROBERT M.

Hometown:

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:

Robert Gardon was a retired New York State Corrections Officer / Robert M. Gardon passed away on 15 March 2023



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GARLAND JR**
FRANK

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

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

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS, 494TH BOMB WING, STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

AF LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Frank Garland, Jr. served as an Administrative Specialist during his four years in foreign service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Garland was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 25 March 1965 / Frank Garland, Jr. passed away on 28 February 2017

The 494th Bomb Wing A Strategic Air Command operational Wing of B-52 bombers and KC-135 tanker aircraft was located at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas until 1965

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S.



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GARRETT**

LAWRENCE E.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

MARINE AIR GROUP-39, 1ST MARINE AIR WING

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/BRONZE SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

As an Aviation Radio Repairman, Corporal Lawrence E. Garrett served 13 months in Vietnam with Marine Air Traffic Control-62, Marine Air Group-39, 1st Marine Air Wing

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After 49 years of marriage to Kathleen, Lawrence E. Garrett passed away on 18 November 2016

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. The medal was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict. It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates

A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition / The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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

Name: **GARRISON JR.**
ALBERT

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:

Albert Garrison was a member of the Screen Actors Guild for 43 years / Albert "Al" Garrison Jr. passed away on 4 July 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GEMBOLYS**

VINCENT

F.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **MARINE CORPS**

Rank: **E-3**

Year Entered: **1969**

Year Discharged: **1970**

Unit / Squadron:

KILO COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE CAMPAIGN STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM &
FRAME**

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Vincent F. Gembolys served as a Machine Gunner during 12 months of combat operations in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Vincent Gembolys received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 5 August 1970 / Vincent F. Gembolys passed away on 24 January 2021

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5, nicknamed Dark Horse) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps / The battalion is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and consists of approximately 1,000 Marines and Fleet Marine Force Navy personnel / The 3rd Battalion falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment which falls under the command of the 1st Marine Division / 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, along with the rest of the 5th Marine Regiment, was first organized on 8 June 1917, as the United States prepared for World War I / They participated in campaigns and battles such as Bois de Belleau, Vierzy, Château-Thierry, Pont-a-Mousson, Limey Sector, Fleury, Meuse-Argonne, Blanc Mont, St Michiel, Leffincourt and Soissons / During World War II, the Marines of 3/5 fought at Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu, and Okinawa / At Peleliu, they were the last Marine battalion to be shipped out before the army took over in April 1946 / In August 1950 the battalion deployed to fight against the North Korean army's invasion of the Republic of Korea (South Korea)



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

during the Korean War / The 3rd Battalion fought at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From April 1966 to March 1971, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, deployed to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War / They fought in Chu Lai, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Operation Hastings, Operation Union, and Union II in the Que Son valley (where they received a Presidential Unit Citation), the Battle of Hue, An Hoa, Operation Swift in the Que Son Valley (where they received a second Presidential Unit Citation), and Firebase Ross / 3rd Battalion was deployed for the 2003 invasion of Iraq / The battalion was again deployed in 2004 to capture the city of Fallujah from insurgents' control / In November 2004, the battalion, along with several other units, participated in Operation Phantom Fury (also known as Al Fajr (Dawn)) and was part of one of the biggest battles in Iraq to that time / Members of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, conducted operations in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom between September 2010 and April 2011

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GETTINGS**

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

125TH AIR TRAFFIC COMPANY (ATC)

361ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant (E-4) Micahel J. Gettings served in Vietnam for 12 months as a Radio & Teletype Operator

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Gettings received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 5 April 1969 / Gettings drove for the Disabled American Veterans and Rural Transit in Clarence / Michael J. Gettings passed away on 15 October 2023

The 125th Air Traffic Control (ATC) Company was deployed to Vietnam to provide non-divisional Air Traffic Control and Flight Following for all US Army Aviation / Each of the Divisions(1st Cav, 1st Div. 4th Div. 25th Div. etc.) deployed to Vietnam had their own organic Air Traffic Control Company for their Division's use / The 125th ATC Company was a unit of several hundred men, initially, but grew to over 400 by 1970 / Each of the platoons were assigned to a Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Corps area

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade is a Combat Aviation Brigade of the United States Army / It was first organized as the 12th Aviation Group at Fort Moore, Georgia, on 18 June 1965 / The unit deployed to Vietnam in August 1965 to command non-organic Army aviation units, and by November 1965, the group consisted of 11,000 personnel and 34 aviation units / Assigned to the Military Region III in Vietnam, the 12th Group was the largest unit of its type to serve in combat / The unit earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Vietnamese



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Crosses for Gallantry with Palm, and the Vietnamese Civic Action Medal, First Class while in Vietnam

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GIARAFFA

ROBERT

J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

27TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Robert Joseph Giaraffa served as a Heavy Vehicle Driver

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert J. Giaraffa was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The mission of the 27th Transportation Battalion was to provide daily movements control and transportation services / In October 1965, the unit deployed from Fort Eustis to Vietnam / Initially stationed in Qui Nhon under the Qui Nhon Sub Command, the Battalion hauled supplies daily from the port over 100 miles through the central Highlands to Pleiku / Over 200 trucks made the trip each day supplying soldiers in the Central Highlands with JP4, ammunition, food and other commodities / A year later the unit moved to Phu Tai under the command of the 8th Transportation Group, where it remained until departing Vietnam / While in Vietnam, the unit was involved in 16 campaigns, earning 16 Campaign Streamers, 4 Meritorious Unit Commendations and Streamers, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star Streamer / Additionally, a soldier assigned to the Battalion's 359th Transportation Company earned the Medal of Honor / Specialist Fourth Class Larry G. Dahl, a machine gunner aboard a gun truck, threw himself upon an enemy grenade during an ambush to save the lives of the other members of the crew / The 27th Transportation Battalion departed Vietnam on 10 May 1972 and was inactivated the next day at Oakland Army Base, California



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GIGANTE**

DARYL

A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

1ST BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE CAMPAIGN STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM UNIT
CITATION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

EXPERT BADGE: M-16 RIFLE

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Daryl A. Gigante was a Field Radio Mechanic and served a 12-month deployment in South Vietnam from July 1970-July 1971, where he was assigned to 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daryl AS. Gigante was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The 101st Airborne Division is a light infantry division of the United States Army specializing in air assault operations / The Screaming Eagles were referred to as "the tip of the spear" and the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize key terrain and can work in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances and engaging enemy forces behind enemy lines / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept it in the vanguard of U.S. land combat forces in many conflicts; World War II, Korea, Vietnam and counterterrorism operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Daryl Gigante received his Honorable Discharge from active duty on 28 July 1971 / Gigante was employed by Dunlap Tire until his retirement / Daryl A. Gigante passed away on 5 March 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GIGANTE**

DARYL

A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

1ST BATTALION (AIRMOBILE), 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant (E-5) Daryl Allan Gigante served 12 months in Vietnam from July 1970-July 1971 as a Field Radio Mechanic with the 506th Infantry

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daryl A. Gigante was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 28 July 1971, Gigante went to work for Dunlap Tires, retiring after many years of service / Daryl Allan Gigante passed away on 5 March 2022

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

The 506th Infantry Regiment, formed at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, in 1942, was originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, as an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / The regiment served with the 101st Airborne Division in World War II / Regimental elements have served with the 101st in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan / Regimental elements have also served in peacetime with the 2nd Infantry Division, and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom / The World War II actions of the regiment's Company E ("Easy Company") were portrayed in the 2001 HBO miniseries Band of Brothers.



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GLAVIN**

JOHN

C.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

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 C. "Jack" Glavin passed away on 10 April 2023



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GORE

ROBERT

E.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: LTCOL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Emmett Gore served during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War / Lt. Colonel also served with the National Guard and Army Reserve

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Gore was a member of the Korean War Memorial Committee / Gore served the Buffalo Public School System for 30 years as an Attendance Teacher / Robert Emmett Gore passed away on 26 November 2023 at the age of 94 years old, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease / Robert Gore is interred at Elmwood Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GORSKI

JOHN

T.

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:

John T. "Jack" Gorski served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John T. "Jack" Gorski passed away on 26 June 2023



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GRAHAM SR.

DAVID

W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

David W. Graham Sr. was a veteran of the Berlin Crisis and retired from the Army Reserves after 29 years of service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Graham retired from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute after 36 years where he was employed as a Senior Cancer Research Technician / Graham was a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologist / David Graham was a member of American Legion Post #205 / David W. Graham Sr. passed away on 20 September 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GRANDY**
GERALD

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

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

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, SCHOOL BRIGADE, U.S. ARMY SOUTH EASTERN SIGNAL SCHOOL

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Gerald Grandy served as a Radio and Teletype Operator attached to the US Army Signal Corps

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Grandy was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 21 May 1970 / Gerald Grandy passed away on 13 May 2021



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

In June 1962, all activities of the Signal Corps Training Center were reorganized under the U.S. Army Southeastern Signal School. Designating the installation the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, the Army consolidated all communications training at Fort Gordon on October 1, 1974

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GREGORIO**

DANIEL

M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CMDR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Commander Daniel M. Gregoria was a Retired Commander with the United States Coast Guard, a United States Navy Veteran and served with the United States Marines Corps in the Korean War / Commander Gregoria served our nation during the period of 1951-1991 / His first 4 years from 1951-1955 were as an active-duty Navy Corpsman assigned to a Marine Corps Special Ops unit in Korea / Gregoria then enlisted in the Naval Reserve stationed at Naval Air Station, Niagara Falls, and in 1962 enlisted in the US Coast Guard Reserve, serving during the Vietnam War / From 1983-1985 Commander Gregoria served as Commanding Officer for the USCG Reserve Unit in Erie PA, and he was the first Commanding Officer at USCG Reserve Niagara River, which was commissioned in 1988 / Cmdr Gregoria served there until his retirement on 6 October 1991.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel M. Gregoria passed away at the age of 90 years old on 15 February 2022

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

The Coast Guard Commendation Medal is a mid-level United States military decoration that is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service within the Coast Gard forces

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOT-SM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

which was created through Executive Order 13289 on 12 March 2003, by President George W. Bush / The medal recognizes those military service members who have supported operations to counter terrorism in the War on Terror from 11 September 2001

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GRUDZIEN

HENRY

A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1958

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

LCU THIRTEEN (LANDING CRAFT UTILITY)

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE (SEABEES)

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (VIETNAM)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Second-Class Henry Adam Grudzien served as a Construction Mechanic (Heavy Constructions) / Grudzien spent five years and nine months of foreign/sea duty including Vietnam / Petty Officer Second-Class Grudzien served a total of twelve years in US Naval service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry A. Grudzien received his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy on 30 October 1967 / Henry Adam Grudzien passed away on 4 October 2021

The Landing Craft Utility (LCU) is a type of boat used by amphibious forces to transport equipment and troops to the shore / They are capable of transporting tracked or wheeled vehicles and troops from amphibious assault ships to beachheads or piers

Naval Construction Battalion 5 (Seabees) was commissioned on May 25, 1942 at Camp Allen Virginia / The battalion went to Port Hueneme and shipped out for the first of two deployments in the Pacific / In 1944, the Construction Battalion was deployed to the Philippines to build roads and provide water supply / In On July 1951, CB 5 was sent to Korea to construct an airfield, leveling a mountain to make way for a nearly 2-mile long runway / From 1965 to 1972, NMCF FIVE made six consecutive deployments to Vietnam / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand to construct Nam Phong Air Base



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GRUGEL**
MARK

Hometown:

Address: WEST SENECA

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

3RD BATTALION, 187TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

AIR MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Mark Grugel served as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Grugel was stationed in Vietnam for 16 months, attached to the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Mark Grugel passed away on 1 November 2021

The 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment (3-187th) ("The Rakkasans") is an infantry battalion in the Third Brigade of 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) / The unit is referenced in the King's Ransom module / The regiment received the nickname "The Rakkasans" when deployed during the Japanese Occupation following World War II / The locals wanted to know what the men of the 187th did, but the translator didn't know the word for "parachutist" / He instead used the word for parasol as the basis for "parasol men" / The 187th was selected as an airborne regimental combat team responding to the crisis in Korea / The advance party of the 3rd Battalion of the Rakkasans was the first to arrive in Korea, arriving at Kimpo Airfield on 23 September 1950 / The 187th led the second and last parachute assault in Korea on 23 March 1951 as part of Operation Tomahawk / In December 1967 the 3d Battalion deployed to Vietnam, alongside 1st and 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry / Over the next four years the Iron Rakkasans fought in twelve major campaigns, conducting numerous air assaults and search and destroy missions / During one such mission in March 1968 Captain Paul W. Bucha, commander of D



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Company, received the Medal of Honor when he crawled through a hail of fire to single-handedly destroy a machine gun bunker with grenades near Phuoc Vinh, Vietnam / The 3-187th participated in the 1969 battle to capture Dong Ap Bia (Hill 937), also known as Hamburger Hill, in the A Shau Valley / The Iron Rakkasans emerged from the Vietnam War as the country's most highly decorated airborne battalion / The 187th Infantry Regiment fought in the Gulf War and the War in 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 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 Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GRZECHOWIAK**

EDWARD

A.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **MARINE CORPS**

Rank: **PFC**

Year Entered: **1956**

Year Discharged: **1958**

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Edward Anthony Grzechowiak served as a Baker

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward A. Grzechowiak was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GUERRA, SR.

VICTOR

J.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-9

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

BATTALION LANDING TEAM, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH MARINES, 24TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT

Medals / Citations:

NAVY CROSS

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

RVN GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL W/PALM

PURPLE HEART (3)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 SERVICE STARS

MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL W/2 STARS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON W/1 STAR

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Major Victor J. Guerra, Sr. served a total of 44+ years, including 37 years active duty / Sgt. Major Guerra, Sr. was engaged in several combat operations in Vietnam, and in 1983 was part of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon with Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Victor Guerra, Sr. was Honorably Discharged and retired from the US Marine Corps on 1 May 1994 / Victor J. Guerra, Sr. passed away on 23 October 2018

1st Battalion, 8th Marines (1/8) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina / The battalion consists of approximately 1000 Marines and sailors and is nicknamed "The Beirut Battalion" / The battalion falls under the command of the 6th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / The unit's history dates back to World War II where it fought in numerous campaigns in the Pacific including Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa / During the Cold War, it was part of Operation Blue Bat in Lebanon in 1958, the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, and the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing in Lebanon where 241 Marines, sailors and soldiers lost



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

their lives / In 1991, it took part in operations during the Gulf War / Since 2001, 1/8 has fought the Global War on Terrorism by serving numerous tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

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

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

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

The 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal" / On August 19, 1994, to recognize those of the United States Marine Corps who had received the Navy Achievement Medal, the name of the decoration was officially changed to the "Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal" / The award is still often referred to in shorthand speech as the "Navy Achievement Medal" or "NAM" for short

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GULLEKSON**

ROBERT

R.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE (SEABEES)

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:

Robert R, Gullekson was a Navy Seabee and served 3 tours of service in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The Naval Construction Force, better known as the Seabees, was born 5 March 1942 / To meet the Navy's need for construction of advanced bases in combat zones in World War II, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, requested specific authority to activate, organize, and man Navy construction units / The first Seabee units were authorized on 5 January 1942, and official authorization of the Seabee name and insignia occurred on 5 March 1942 / Since then, Seabees have been the Navy's construction force, building bases and airfields, conducting underwater construction, and building roads, bridges, and other support facilities

Robert R. Gullekson worked at Buffalo Forge prior to joining the Navy / Upon his Honorable Discharge, Gullekson returned to work at Buffalo Forge, retiring in 2010 after 46 years of employment / Gullekson was past Commander of the Harry-Crosby VFW Post #2472 in Kenmore, NY / Robert R. Gullekson passed away on 25 February 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GUZDA JR.
MICHAEL**

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

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

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

18TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 197TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD US ARMY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael Guzda, Jr. served with an Artillery Regiment during his 12 month deployment to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Guzda received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 21 June 1968 / Michael Guzda, Jr. passed away on 14 June 2018

The 197th Infantry Brigade ("Sledgehammer") is an active Infantry brigade of the United States Army / The brigade was active as an Organized Reserve unit from 1921–1942, in the Regular Army from 1962–1991, and as a TRADOC training unit from 2007–2013 / The 18th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army first formed in 1916 / The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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

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