



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KAMM

MICHAEL

G.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael G. Kamm Joined the 107th Air National Guard, Niagara Falls in 1960 where he served as a jet mechanic and flightline crew chief / Kamm's military career spanned 33 years, earning 26 medals

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Following his Honorable Discharge from the service, Michael G. Kamm was employed by the Orchard Park School District as a bus driver for 21 years / Kamm was a 60-year volunteer fireman with the West Seneca Reserve Hose Fire Company, where he served as vice-president and president of the fire company / Michael G. Kamm passed away on February 2, 2022 at the age of 83 years old



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**Name:** **KANDEFER**

**STANLEY J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** UNION ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Stanley J. Kandefer, Jr. taught specialized training to Army personnel while stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Sergeant Kandefer was Wounded in Action, stepping on a land mine, while on a Search & Destroy mission in a remote section of Kon Tum province in South Vietnam / Sergeant Kandefer spent a year-and-a-half at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Colorado recovering from his wounds

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Benning, Georgia - Camp Benning, near Columbus, Georgia was established in 1909 and has served as the Home of the Infantry / Renamed Fort Benning in 1922, the base 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 / It is a power projection platform, and possesses the capability to deploy combat-ready forces by air, rail, and highway

Fort Jackson, South Carolina - Located within the city of Columbia, the camp was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army General and seventh President of the United States of America / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers and 60 percent of the women entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission. 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Stanley J. Kandefer graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School in 1964 / Prior to being drafted into the U. S. Army, Kandefer graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business School with an Accounting Degree / After his Honorable Discharge, Kandefer, as a Master Plumber, went into the family business of heating and plumbing, eventually becoming the owner of Kandefer Plumbing & Heating, Inc. / Passing on the business to family members, Kandefer retired from the day-to-day activities but remains very active in the industry / Kandefer was instrumental in creating the West Seneca Vietnam Memorial, honoring those who lost their lives while serving in Vietnam / Stanley Kandefer is a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 8113 / Stanley J. Kandefer, Jr. passed away on 27 September 2023

The 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army / Trained for air assault operations, it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" / It is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / These particular operations are conducted by highly mobile teams covering extensive distances and engaging enemy forces behind enemy lines / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept it in the vanguard of US land combat forces in recent conflicts / 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 literally fought in every area of Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / In May 1967 the 1st Brigade operated as part of Task Force Oregon / 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 / In almost seven years of combat in Vietnam, elements of the 101st participated in 15 campaigns / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The 101st Airborne were called the "Chicken Men" by the North Vietnamese because of their insignia. (The Vietnamese had never seen an eagle before) / Enemy commanders are said to have warned their men to avoid the Chicken Men at all costs because they were sure to lose any engagement with them / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam it suffered 4,011 killed in action and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

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

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



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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

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 Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award / 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, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941 / On or after 18 September 2001: a Soldier must be an Army infantry or special forces officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of Colonel or below, or an Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or special forces MOS, who has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires / A Soldier must be personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned infantry or Special Forces primary duty, in a unit engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires



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**Name:** **KARCHER**  
**HENRY**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 63 FARMINGDALE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Henry "Hank" Karcher served in Japan, Okinawa and Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Henry Karcher was employed by Merchants Insurance Group in Buffalo, followed by Graphic Controls / When Graphic Controls closed down, Karcher went to work for Early Head Start until his retirement / Henry "Hank" Karcher passed away on 1 December 2021 at the age of 77 years / Karcher is interred in the Field of Valor at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, NY



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KARN

WAYNE

D.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 22 LARKWOOD ROAD

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS.

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Wayne D. Karn was Killed in Action on 20 June 1967 from small arms fire during hostile action in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

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

**Base Assignments:**

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

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



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various training commands

## *Miscellaneous:*

Wayne Karn graduated from West Seneca Central High School in 1964 / Karn was a dental technician while employed at Agthe Dental Laboratory / Prior to being drafted into the Marine Corps on 22 March 1966, Karn was a truck driver for Fisher-Price Toys



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**Name:** **KASPEREK**

**GERALD**

**R.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

152ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, COMPANY "A"

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist E-4 Gerald R. Kasperek was assigned to the Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division while serving in 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)

Ft. Ord, California - Located near Monterey Bay on an old artillery range, Ft. Ord was constructed in 1940 / Ft. Ord was named in honor of Union Army Maj. Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, (1818-1883) a famous and well respected Federal military leader during the American Civil War who also served in the Second Seminole War in Florida and the western Indian Wars / During the Vietnam War conflict it became the major training center in the nation / In 1964 a Drill Sergeant School was opened / It once again was home to basic combat, advanced infantry, and basic unit training for over half a million soldiers / It was the highest overall training of combat ready troops in the fort's history / In 1973 the last American troops departed Vietnam / The total number of soldiers trained at Fort Ord from 1940 to 1975 is estimated at 1.5 million / In 1994, Fort Ord was officially closed



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Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a United States Marine Corps military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Chu Lai Air Base became operational on 1 June 1965 and remained in use by Marine aviation units until September 1970 / The Seabees of MCB-10 built the helicopter pad, and the Marines also established combat base and helicopter facility on the Kỳ Hà peninsula north of the air base / On the morning of 31 January 1968 as part of the Tet Offensive, the Viet Cong attacked the base with rockets and mortars triggering an explosion in the bomb dump. MAGs 12 and 13 suffered three aircraft destroyed and 23 damaged / The Marine base was handed over to the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in April 1967 and subsequently became the headquarters and base area for the 23rd Americal Division from September 1967 until November 1971

Camp Casey, Korea - Camp Casey is a 3,500 acre U.S. military base in Dongducheon, South Korea / The camp was named in 1952 after Major Hugh Boyd Casey, who was killed in an plane crash near Camp Casey during the Korean War / Camp Casey is one of several U.S. Army bases in South Korea near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

## *Miscellaneous:*

Gerald Kasperek graduated from high school in Lackawanna / Prior to military service, Kasperek was employed at the Red Barn Restaurant / Upon his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Kasperek attended Buffalo State College and went to work for the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / Gerald then joined the United States Postal Service where he was employed for 38 years / Gerald R. Kasperek and his family moved to West Seneca in 1981

During the years of 1967–1971 as part of the Vietnam War the 198th Infantry Brigade was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division



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**Name:** **KAUDERER**

**JAMES**

**E.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1964

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class James Earl Kauderer served as a Air Traffic Controller at Clark Air Base in the Philippines Islands for 11 months

**Base Assignments:**

Clark Air Base, Philippines - Clark Air Base is a Philippine Air Force base on Luzon Island in the Philippines, located 3 miles west of Angeles City, about 40 miles northwest of Metro Manila / Clark Air Base was previously a United States military facility, operated by the U.S. Air Force under the aegis of Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and their predecessor organizations from 1903 to 1991 / The base was a stronghold of the combined Philippine and American forces during the final months of World War II and a backbone of logistical support during the Vietnam War until 1975 / In April 2016, an Air Contingent of USAF A-10s and HH-60s was deployed from U.S. air bases in Pyeongtaek and Okinawa to Clark / The primary mission of the contingent appears to be to patrol disputed South China Sea islands, "to provide greater and more transparent air and maritime domain awareness to ensure safety for military and civilian activities in international waters and airspace"

**Miscellaneous:**

James Kauderer was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 15 December 1964 / James Earl Kauderer passed away on 22 May 2017

In the 1960s and early 70s, Air Force communications played a critical role in Southeast Asia / Communication support to the massive operations involved a host of specialists performing every then-known communications-electronics function and devising new ones as situations dictated / The war in Vietnam dramatically tested the responsiveness of communications operators to the various demands of tactical combat as well as counter-insurgency operations / On Jan 14, 1962, a detachment of AFCS' 1st Mobile Communications Group installed a



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tactical air control system in South Vietnam / Also, the group installed voice and teletype services at Tan Son Nhut, Pleiku, DaNang, and Nha Trang / From April 23 to May 1, 1975, during the evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam, four Air Force Communication Specialists with a radio-equipped jeep, provided communications for the US Defense Attache Office / By April 28, attacks on Saigon had become so heavy that the team was ordered to evacuate / Two of the men volunteered to stay to support the US Marine guards / When the two airmen were airlifted out by helicopter shortly after midnight on 1 May 1975, they were the last Air Force personnel evacuated from South Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KAZMIERCZAK

ROBERT

J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Robert Joseph Kazmierczak was deployed to Vietnam in January 1969 and assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman in the 50th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade / While on patrol, Cpl. Robert Kazmierczak was Killed in Action in Bình Định, Vietnam on 14 June 1969 when he stepped on an enemy booby trap, suffering fatal wounds / Cpl Kazmierczak was awarded the Purple Heart (posthumously)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kazmierczak graduated from Baker Victory High School, Lackawanna, and Bryant & Stratton Business Institute / Prior to his induction into military service, Kazmierczak was employed at Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Lackawanna plant, and was attending evening classes at Millard Fillmore College of the University of Buffalo, working toward a business degree / Robert Joseph Kazmierczak was KIA on 14 June 1969 at the age of 20 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry served in Vietnam from 22 September 1967 to 13 December 1970 in II Corps (Central Highlands), providing combat power to major units as and where it was most needed / At times it was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 173d Airborne Brigade and 1st Field Force Vietnam / The 173rd served in Loc Son, Phan Thiet, Cay Giep Mountains, in and around Binh Thuan Province



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

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

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



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**Name:** KELLY

BRIAN

F.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 1751 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

KOREAN MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP (KMAG)

NIKE ARTILLERY BATTERY

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

SP-4 Brian F. Kelly was attached to the Korean Military Advisory group (KMAG) near Busan, Korea / Kelly spent 13 months in Korea as a Classified Document Specialist and Ration Card Administrator

**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)

Selfridge Air Force Base, Lake St. Clair, Michigan - Originally named Selfridge Army Air Base, it was created in 1917 and was named after Army 1st Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge who was killed while flying on a demonstration flight with Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1908, the first military casualty of flight / In 1947 the Selfridge Army Air Base was renamed Selfridge Air Force Base / During the Cold War era, Nike missiles were stationed at the base to guard the industrial might of the Detroit region

**Miscellaneous:**

Brian Kelly attended Orchard Park High School, graduating in 1958 / Kelly attended the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1958 through 1963 prior to military service / Before entering the Army, Brian Kelly went to work for the Chevrolet Tonawanda Foundry in 1961 and returned to the Foundry after his discharge, employed as a Clerk, Safety Inspector and Safety Engineer / Kelly became a Safety Manager at Dunlop Tire Corp in 1982



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and remained there until 1991 / Kelly went to work as a Safety Engineer for the West Valley Nuclear Service from 1991 until his retirement in 2002

The Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) (officially United States Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea) was a United States military unit of the Korean War / Following the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet union split up the administration of Korea, with the United States taking charge of the southern half / Beginning in January 1946, the U.S. military government in the south began to form a Korean defense force and helped to train and provide logistic support for the Republic of Korea Army



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**Name:** KELLY

ROGER

E.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Roger E. Kelly    Lance Corporal Roger Kelly was Killed In Action from wounds suffered from rifle fire during a firefight with enemy elements

**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 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:**

Roger Kelly graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School in 1966 / Roger E. Kelly was 20 years old at the time of his passing



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**Name:** KEMPSKI JR.

LONGIN

T.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

2852ND AIR BASE GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Longin Thomas Kempiski Jr. served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Longin T. Kempiski Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KERWIN**

**BRIAN**

**L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**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:**

Sergeant

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KING

LERROY E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** RYAN STREET

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

6910TH SECURITY WING

6970TH SUPPORT GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

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

Fort George Meade, Maryland - Created in 1917, Ft. Meade was named for George G. Meade, a general from the U.S. Civil War, who served as commander of the Army of the Potomac / Although a United States Army installation, it is also the home to the National Security Agency / The Fort also houses the Defense Information School, the Defense Media Activity, the United States Army Field Band, and the headquarters of United States Cyber Command, the Defense Courier Service, and Defense Information Systems Agency headquarters / The 6970th Support Group was transferred from Washington, DC to Ft. Meade in 1956

Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne, Darmstadt, Germany - Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne (CFK) was built in 1936 and was originally two kasernes / The western part called Cambrai Kaserne named after a tank battle which took place in Cambrai, France during World War I / The eastern part was Fritsch Kaserne named after General Werner von Fritsch, the commanding general of the German Army in 1935 / In March 1945, the US Army took over the kaserne and the US Army Quartermaster school was housed here until 1950 / Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne is home to Headquarters, 233rd Base Support Battalion, Headquarters, 22nd Signal Brigade and 440th Signal Battalion



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

and the 6910th Support Group / Cambrai-Fritsch-Kaserne was shut down in 2008

## *Miscellaneous:*

Leroy E. King graduated from Lackawanna Senior High School in 1965 / King worked at the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna, New York prior to entering the United States Air Force in 1967 / After his Honorable Discharge, King returned to Bethlehem Steel and enrolled in the State University College of Buffalo / After working for several companies as a computer analyst and programmer, Leroy King founded his own computer programming business, King Consultants / Leroy King retired from his programming company and is currently a member of American Legion 735

The National Security Agency (NSA) is a national-level intelligence agency of the United States Department of Defense, under the authority of the Director of National Intelligence / The NSA is responsible for global monitoring, collection, and processing of information and data for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence purposes, specializing in a discipline known as signals intelligence (SIGINT) / The NSA is also tasked with the protection of U.S. communications networks and information systems / The NSA relies on a variety of measures to accomplish its mission, the majority of which are clandestine / Originating as a unit to decipher coded communications in World War II, it was officially formed as the NSA by President Harry S. Truman in 1952 / Since then, it has become the largest of the U.S. intelligence organizations



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KITCHENS II

JACK

C.

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RD2

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**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:**

Radarman 2nd-Class Jack Conroy Kitchens II served with the United States Naval Reserve as a Naval Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman (SWCC), part of Seal Team 2 with Coastal Squadron 1/Coastal Surveillance 1 / Kitchens also served during the Cuban Missile Crisis

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jack Kitchens II graduated from the University of Buffalo with multiple Bachelor of Science degrees in mechanical, electrical, chemical engineering and computer science, with minors in metallurgy and rubber technology / Kitchens taught nursing chemistry at Auburn College / Kitchens became a world expert in Ultrasound and Piezoelectric Physics / Jack Kitchens II was awarded Inventor of the Year and had over 200 registered patents / Kitchens, using his pen name Henry C. Savage, wrote a book "Ultrasound & Piezoelectric Physics for Engineers: A Primer with Applications and Examples" / Jack Kitchens worked as an engineer for many companies, including Pierce and Stevens Corp., Sierra Research, LTV Aerospace and Defense Co., Viatran, UltraScan and Qualcomm/ Jack Conroy Kitchens II passed away at the age of 76 years old on 22 November 2022 / Jack Kitchens II is interred at Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, New York

The United States Navy, Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) Team are the Navy's primary special operations force and a component of the Naval Warfare Command / Among the SEALs main function are conducting small-unit special operation missions in maritime, jungle, urban, arctic, mountainous, and desert environments / SEALs are typically ordered to capture or kill high level targets or to gather intelligence behind enemy lines



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Navy SWCCs are members of the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community comprising of those who take on the most impossible missions and the most elusive objectives

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 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:** KLEIN

ROBERT

J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Klein passed away on 19 August 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLINSHAW**

**NORBERT J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

129TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Norbert J. "Norb" Klinshaw served as a crew Chief and gunner in the Army's 129th Assault Helicopter Company

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Norbert J. "Norb" Klinshaw went to work for Bethlehem Steel as a steelworker before his retirement / Klinshaw joined the Winchester Fire Company and served as a fireman for 57 years / Norbert J. Klinshaw died on 29 March 2021 at the age of 75 years old

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 129th Aviation Company was formed July 3rd 1965 and was activated July 5th 1965 at Fort Campbell , Kentucky / The 129th Aviation Company served in Vietnam from 21 October 1965 to 8th March 1973 / The 129th was assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion which arrived in Vietnam on 29th October 1965 / The primary mission of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company was to provide tactical air movement of the U.S. and allied troops in connection with counter-insurgency operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam / The secondary mission of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company was to provide tactical air movement of supplies and equipment within the tactical area of responsibility



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLUCK**

**JOSEPH**

**D.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-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:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNOWLES JR.**

**BRYANT**

**C.**

**Hometown:** NORTH TONAWANDA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1972

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "B", 1ST BATTALION, 36TH INFANTRY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/"V" DEVICE

PARACHUTE BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

AIR MEDAL

PATHFINDER BADGE

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

EXPERT BADGE: MACHINE GUN

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) Bryant Chase Knowles Jr. served as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Bryant Knowles Jr. was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service under combat conditions

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Rucker, Alabama - Fort Rucker (Formerly Camp Rucker) is a U.S. Army post located primarily in Dale County, Alabama, United States / Opened on 1 May 1942, it was named for a Civil War officer, Confederate General Edmund Rucker / The post is the primary flight training installation for U.S. Army Aviators and is home to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) and the United States Army Aviation Museum / Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of units of less than division size; these included tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units / During the latter part of the Second World War, several hundred German and a few Italian prisoners-of-war were housed in stockades near the railroad east of the warehouse area, on the southern edge of the post / The 91st Infantry Division was sent to Camp Rucker at the end of the war, being deactivated in December 1945 / Camp Rucker was inactive from March 1946 until August 1950 / It was reopened during the Korean War / The name was changed to "Fort Rucker" in October 1955 / The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls for the establishment of an eight-person committee to develop a plan to remove all names, symbols, displays, and monuments that honor or commemorate the Confederacy from all Department of Defense assets, including Fort Rucker / In 2021, the Moore family started a petition to rename the fort in honor of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black brigadier general in the USAF



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a United States Armed Forces decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone

The 36th Armored Infantry was formed on 1 July 1916 at Brownsville, Texas from elements of the 4th Infantry, 26th Infantry and 28th Infantry

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 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

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

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

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

The 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 / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Created in 1944, the Pathfinder Badge is a military badge of the United States Army awarded to soldiers who complete the U.S. Army Pathfinder School at Fort Benning, Georgia / To be awarded the Pathfinder Badge, the soldier must complete Pathfinder instruction in advanced land navigation, advanced scouting, tactical air traffic control in the field, and the control of parachute operations; the badge is awarded on completing several examinations under field training exercise (FTX) conditions / Examinations include proficiency in sling load rigging and execution, planning and execution of helicopter landing zones (HLZ), air traffic control operations, aerial delivery of troops and supplies, and several others



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOEHLER**

**WILLIAM**

**D.**

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant William D. Koehler served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat action

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Koehler was a Native American Sundancer / William D. Koehler, PhD passed away at the age of 72 years old on 6 March 2023

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOLBAS

RICHARD

B.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS FRANCIS MARION (LPA-249)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard B. Kolbas served onboard ship as a Radioman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Kolbas was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 3 April 1972 / Richard B. Kolbas passed away on 14 September 2021

USS Francis Marion (APA-249) was a Paul Revere-class attack transport of the United States Navy / The Francis Marion was named after the Revolutionary hero Francis Marion, also known as the Swamp Fox and was commissioned 6 July 1961 / In October – November 1962, she served as part of the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis with units of the 8th Marine Regiment aboard / From 1969 through 1975 Francis Marion participated in numerous amphibious assault exercises in the Mediterranean and Caribbean / In November 1975, the ship's status was changed to a Naval Reserve Forces Ship and manned with a mix of USN and Naval Reserve personnel / On 16 May 1978 she carried 1,100 Marines to participate in Solid Shield 78 / In 1979 the Navy determined the Francis Marion was excess to the Navy's needs and she was decommissioned on 14 September 1979 / On 11 July 1980, the USS Francis Marion was sold to Spain under the Security Assistance Program and renamed Aragón (L-22)

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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:** KOMINAREK

JOHN

F.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES (MCSS), MARINE CORPS BASE (MCB)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) John Frank Kominarek served as a General Warehouseman

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

John F. Kominarek was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) is a comprehensive set of programs that support and enhance the operational readiness, war fighting capabilities, and life quality of Marines and their families / Its mission is to take care of Marines and their families by providing quality of life programs, products, and services in support of the Marine Corps objectives

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOSCIELNIAK

THOMAS

S.

**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: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Koscielniak was a lifetime member of VFW Pvt. Leonard Post #6251 and American Legion Post #1528 / Koscielniak was also a member of the Western New York Hosta Society / Thomas S. Koscielniak passed away on 22 May 2023 at the age of 75 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOSHOFFER

HENRY J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**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:**

Henry J. Koshofer served in Vietnam and earned a Purple Heart Medal from wounds received during combat actions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Henry Koshofer retired from the Colorgraphics Printing Company / Koshofer was a member of the local Teamsters Union / Henry J. Koshofer passed away on 11 February 2023 at the age of 73 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOSIS

ANTHONY

D.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Anthony D. Kosis passed away on 12 November 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOSMOSKI JR

STANLEY

A.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stanley A. "Jack Welles" Kosmoski, Jr. passed away on 16 January 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOWAL

ROBERT

S.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert S. Kowal served as a Forward Artillery Observer during his deployment to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kowal graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1962 / in 1964, Kowal graduated from Bryant and Stratton Business Institute with an Associates Degree / Robert Kowal was drafted into the United States Army in 1968 / After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Kowal graduated with a Bachelor's of Business Administration Degree in 1981 from Empire State College / Kowal served as the General Manager of the Star, Skyway and Park Drive-ins and Regional Manager of the Blatt Brothers theater chain based out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania / During the 1970's, Robert Kowal owned "Bobby's", a diner in Downtown Buffalo, New York / In 1981, Kowal and his wife purchased the Aurora Theatre in East Aurora and operated the theatre until 2003, working as a Business Consultant to Aurora Ventures / Robert Kowal served several years on the Executive Board of Directors of the National Association of Theater Owners / Robert S. Kowal passed away on 18 March 2023 at the age of 79 years old and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOWALCZEWSKI

LEONARD

F.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "D", 7TH BATTALION, SCH BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE 1960

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

EXPERT BADGE: RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) Leonard Francis Kowalczewski served as a Radio Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Prior to his induction into the U.S. Army on 8 December 1967, Leonard F. Kowalczewski attend a 2 Year College majoring in Civil Engineering / Leonard Kowalczewski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOZA

ROBERT

C.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RM3

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY COMMENDATION RIBBON

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

NAVY COLD WAR MEDAL

HONORABLE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Radioman Third-Class Robert C. Koza handled telecommunications for the 2nd Fleet while serving on the Flag Ship, USS Newport News / Radioman Koza's ship patrolled the Atlantic Ocean, safeguarding the eastern seaboard of the United States and the Caribbean Sea area, including a stop at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba / Radioman Third-Class Koza served six years in the Navy

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Station Norfolk (Norfolk, Virginia) - Naval Station Norfolk is the headquarters and home port of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet / In April 1917, shortly after the United States entered World War I, a bill was passed for the purchase of land at Norfolk, and money was set aside in the amount of \$1.6 million to develop the Naval Operating Base (NOB) and other facilities / When World War II began in Europe in 1939, new facilities were built, including new runways for aircraft and ramps to be used by seaplanes during the war / About 400 acres was acquired and, by 1943, the air station had become a central airfield for operations / On 1 January 1953, the name of the naval base was officially changed to Naval Station Norfolk (NS Norfolk), after being known as the NOB / In 1968, the Naval Air Station was given a major role in John F. Kennedy's vision of putting a man on the moon / The air station became Recovery Control Center Atlantic, which provided command, control, and communications for the ships and aircraft that participated in the recovery operations of Apollo 7 / Naval Station Norfolk is home port of four carrier strike groups and their assigned ships

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert C. Koza graduated from Canisius High School prior to entering the United States Navy / After receiving his



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Honorable Discharge, Koza attended Bryant and Stratton College / Koza worked at Westinghouse as an armature winder until moving to TW Truck Equippers before obtaining employment in 1989 at Blue Cross & Blue Shield as a Control Clerk, where he worked until retirement / Robert Koza served as an Assistant Chaplain at Veterans Hospital, Buffalo as a Communion Minister and also served as Assistant Chaplain for the Navy League (A.O.S. Bryant & Stratton) / Koza also received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Buffalo and the California Coast University (combination degree) / Robert Koza has been a member of St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo for more than 40 years serving as a Choir member, Lector and Boy Scout Leader for Troop 107 / Koza has been a member of American Legion Matthew Glab Post 1477 in Lackawanna for over 40 years, serving the post as Vice Commander and Boys State Chairman / Bob Koza also is a member of AMVETS Post 8113 where he serves as Chaplain

Radiomen were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / Radiomen were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas

The USS Newport News (CA-148) was a Des Moines-class heavy cruiser commissioned on 29 January 1949 and launched on 6 March 1948 by Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Virginia/ The Newport News was the first fully air-conditioned surface ship in the United States Navy and the last of her age, as well as the last all-gun heavy cruiser in commission in US naval history / In addition to annual deployments to the Mediterranean from 1950 to 1961 for duty with the Sixth Fleet, she participated in major fleet exercises and midshipman training cruises in the Caribbean and Western Atlantic / Operations from 1963 through 1967 consisted primarily of NATO exercises in the North Atlantic, gunnery and amphibious exercises off the Eastern seaboard and Caribbean, and midshipman cruises / The USS Newport News was decommissioned on 27 June 1975 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 31 July 1978 / She spent her twilight years as a member of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard's "Mothball Fleet" and was sold for scrap in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 25 February 1993

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal is 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 / As the NDSM has been awarded to all military personnel during four wartime periods, it has millions of recipients and is probably the most widely awarded medal in the history of the United States military, with the possible exception of World War II Victory Medal

The Navy Commendation Ribbon may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy (or Marine Corps, including foreign military personnel), distinguishes himself/herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service / To merit this award, the acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner above that normally expected and sufficient to distinguish the individual above those performing similar services

The Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (NSSDR) is presented to any member of the United States Navy after



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they complete a deployment at sea / A standard deployment is considered 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days within a 12 month period

The Navy Cold War Medal recognizes all service members and federal employees who faithfully served in the U.S. military during the Cold War era / That era is the end of World War II, Sept. 2, 1945, to the collapse of the Soviet Union, Dec. 26, 1991

**Name:** KOZAK

DAVID

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Colonel David Kozak was a fighter pilot in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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**Name:** KOZIOL

ALFRED

J.

**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:**

Alfred Koziol was retired from the Department of Defense where he was employed as a Quality Assurance Specialist / Alfred J. "Big Al" Koziol passed away on 26 July 2022 / Alfred Koziol is interred in the Western New York National Veterans Cemetery in Corfu, NY



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**Name:** KOZLOWSKI JR.

JOHN

R.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PARACHUTIST BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (LIGHT  
MACHINE GUN (LMG))

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-1 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: BROWNING AUTOMATIC RIFLE  
(BAR)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class John R. Kozlowski, Jr. served as a Light Weapons Infantryman and was assigned to an Infantry Unit at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

John Kozlowski, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 26 October 1966 / John R. Kozlowski, Jr.



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passed away on 20 September 2021

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

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:** **KRAFT**

**DONALD**

**M.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 4TH BATTALION, 3RD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant (E-5) Donald M. Kraft served as a Food Service Specialist while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas

**Base Assignments:**

Fort. Hood (Killeen, Texas) - Fort Hood, opened in August 1942, was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Kraft was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 12 January 1968 / Donald Kraft was a life member of the Vigilant Fire Company and a member of American Legion 735 / Donald M. "Krafty" Kraft passed away on 17 September 2021

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons that launch munitions far beyond the range and power of infantry firearms / As technology improved, lighter, more mobile field artillery cannons developed for battlefield use / Modern self-propelled artillery vehicles are highly mobile weapons of great versatility generally providing the largest share of an army's total firepower

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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Marksmanship Badge is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) / The U.S. Army awards their marksmanship qualification badges for a variety of weapons / The Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman

**Name:** **KRAMER**

**EARL**

**E.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:** 1943

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Earl E. Kramer enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and was assigned to the European Theater of Operations / Kramer served as a Machine Gunner with the 2nd Armored Division and landed in Normandy on D-Day +9 / Kramer served in a light tank during the Battle of the Bulge, and went on to serve in several campaigns across France, Belgium, Holland and Germany / He was wounded in April 1945 while on a recon mission in Germany

At the end of World War II, Kramer was Honorably Discharged from Army with the rank of First Sergeant / In 1949, Kramer received a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and served 35 years, retiring with the rank of Colonel

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Earl E. Kramer served in World War II and also served during the Korean War Era and the Vietnam War Era / Earl E Kramer passed away on 30 September 2017



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**Name:** **KREUZER**

**JOSEPH**

**A.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-6

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

107TH COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff-Sergeant (E-6) Joseph Arthur Kreuzer served as an Administrative Specialist and was activated when North Korea captured the USS Pueblo / SSgt Kreuzer's unit was sent to South Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph A. Kreuzer was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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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**Name:** **KRONTHALER**

**PAUL J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 139 ALLENDALE ROAD

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH AIR CAVALRY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (USARV)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First Class Paul J. Kronthaler was Killed in Action on 6 May 1969 from bullet wounds sustained from enemy gunfire / His division, the First Cavalry Division, was involved in a battle with Viet Cong troops near the Vietnam - Cambodia border in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam / PFC Kronthaler, a radioman, had only been in Vietnam for 5 weeks.

PFC Kronthaler was an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Kronthaler was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central School and had received his Bachelor's Degree from Brockport State College earlier in 1968, prior to joining the Army in October 1968

Private First Class Paul J. Kronthaler was 22 years of age at the time of his death

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



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casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action



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**Name:** **KRYWALSKI**

**RICHARD**

**C.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:** **E-5**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **MARINE CORPS**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** **1965**

**Year Discharged:** **1968**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 STAR

PURPLE HEART

NATIONAL DEFENSE RIBBON

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1 DEVICE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Richard Charles Krywalski served as a Rifleman in Vietnam / Sergeant Krywalski was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Barracks, Yorktown, Virginia - Naval Weapons Station Yorktown and Cheatham Annex provide responsive, quality support for explosive ordnance storage, maintenance, logistics, research and development, and support services; expeditionary logistics training and operations; warfare training for Sailors, Marines, and other Services; and to serve as a premier recreation destination for service members and dependents / The installation was first established in 1918, as the Naval Mine Depot

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard C. Krywalski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

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



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

**Name:** KRZEMINSKI

JOSEPH

A.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 4TH ESTB UNITED STATES ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS (USATC)

5TH UNITED STATES ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: RIFLE

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Joseph Andrew Krzeminski served as a Construction Machine Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph A. Krzeminski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

In United States Army units, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is a company -sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within one company / Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Fifth Army was redesignated on 1 January 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Fifth United States Army / The United States Army Transportation Corps (USATC) is responsible for the movement of personnel and material by truck, rail, air, and sea



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**Name:** KUEHLEWIND

MICHAEL

G.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND BATTALION 77TH ARTILLERY

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael G. Kuehlewind served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael G. Kuehlewind passed away on 1 July 2023

The 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery was first constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as Troops C and D, 19th Cavalry and organized on 11 June 1917 at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont / During World War II, the 77th participated in participated in 10 campaigns, including Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, North Apennines, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, and Po Valley / The 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on 9 October 1966, and was initially based at Dau Tieng as the direct support battalion for the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division / Reassigned to the 25th Infantry Division on 1 August 1967, it moved to Cu Chi in 1969 / The 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery participated in eleven Vietnam campaigns receiving a Presidential Unit Citation for the battle of Soui Tre and three awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm / The battalion departed Vietnam on 7 December 1970.



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**Name:** KUPKOWSKI

JOHN

W.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, 173RD AIRBORNE (ABN) BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant John Walter Kupkowski was deployed to Vietnam and was Killed In Action on 28 February 1971 during combat action in Bình Định, Vietnam / Sgt Kupkowski was awarded the Purple Heart (posthumously)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Walter Kupkowski was Killed In Action on 28 February 1971 at the age of 26 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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 / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, 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 regiment's 1st and 2nd Battalions are active, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade

The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers"[1]) is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United



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States Army based in Vicenza, Italy. It is the United States European Command's conventional airborne strategic response force for Europe.[3]

Activated in 1915, the 173rd Infantry Brigade saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed in Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The brigade returned to the United States in 1972, where the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, were absorbed into the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery was reassigned to Division Artillery in the 101st / The remaining units of the 173rd were inactivated

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

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



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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:** KUPKOWSKI JR

WALTER

J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Walter J. Kupkowski, Jr. was a Green Beret combat veteran who served two tours in Vietnam / Kupkowski was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat operations

Kupkowski served in the Navy for two years and then joined the Army, where he served in artillery and airborne units

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Walter Kupkowski was a graduate of Lackawanna High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Kupkowski worked in the Maintenance Department of Our Lady of Victory Homes / Walter J. Kupkowski, Jr. passed away from cancer on 19 September 2000 at the age of 58 years old / Kupkowski is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, 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 / 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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 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:** KWITOWSKI

CARL

E.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**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:**

Sergeant

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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