



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAFFERTY

JAMES

P.

Hometown: DERBY

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

James P. Lafferty served as a Gunner's Mate-Guns (GMG) and had 3 years of foreign and sea service, including duty in the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam from 1968-1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Lafferty was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 9 April 1971 / James P. Lafferty passed away on 26 August 2021

USS Newport News (CA-148) was the third and last ship of the Des Moines-class of heavy cruisers / She was the first fully air-conditioned surface ship and the last all-gun heavy cruiser in the United States Navy / The Newport News was commissioned on 29 January 1949 and was deployed to the Mediterranean from 1950 to 1961 for duty with the Sixth Fleet / 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 / On 5 September 1967, the Newport News departed for a six-month deployment to Southeast Asia / Arriving in Da Nang, South Vietnam, she fired her eight-inch guns for the first time against shore targets in North Vietnam as part of Operation Sea Dragon / Newport News spent 50 days patrolling the coast of North Vietnam as part of Operation Sea Dragon – the Navy's effort to destroy waterborne logistics craft, military supply routes and installations in North Vietnam / During this period, the ship conducted 156 strikes with 325 North Vietnamese coastal defense sites taken under fire / According to spotters, Newport News sank 17 waterborne logistics craft, damaged another 14 and destroyed several enemy bunkers and radar sites, bridges, barges, trucks



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and roads / The ship was subjected to return fire on several occasions, but each time countered enemy batteries / On 19 December 1967, Newport News exchanged fire with 20–28 separate shore batteries, simultaneously, off the coast of North Vietnam / During this engagement, over 300 enemy rounds bracketed the cruiser's position, but she suffered no direct hits / This encounter led to forward observers to nickname Newport News "The Gray Ghost from the East Coast," a moniker she retained throughout her three Vietnam deployments / Newport News was decommissioned on 27 June 1975 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 31 July 1978 / She spent her later 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 Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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

The 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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Name: **LAMONTE**
FRANCIS P.

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:**

Service Notes:

Francis P. LaMonte served in both the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis LaMonte retired as an Occupational Therapist at the Buffalo VA Hospital / Francis P. LaMonte passed away on 29 April 2023 at the age of 74 years old / LaMonte is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LARUSCH**
THOMAS W.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Thomas W. LaRusch served as a Light Weapons Infantry / Assigned to Vietnam in 1970, Sgt LaRusch served in-country for 11 months operating the TOW Anti-Tank Missile (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas LaRusch was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 22 July 1971 / Thomas W. LaRusch passed away on 30 May 2021

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 BGM-71 TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) is a heavy anti-tank missile / It was developed by Hughes Aircraft Company during the mid and late 1960s / It was designed for both ground and heliborne applications / Production contract was awarded in 1968 and first fielded in the 1970's



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

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

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

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Name: LATTANZIO

FRANK

A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

2ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

AIRCREW BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Frank Anthony Lattanzio served as an Aircraft Mechanic and Repairman

Base Assignments:

Fort Eustis, Virginia - Fort Eustis is a United States Army installation in Newport News, Virginia / Camp Abraham Eustis was established in 1918 as a coast artillery replacement center and is named for Brevet Brigadier General Abraham Eustis, a 19th-century U.S. military leader who had been the first commanding officer of Fort Monroe, a defensive fortification at the mouth of Hampton Roads / The post is the home to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, the 7th Transportation Brigade, and Joint Task Force - Civil Support / In 2010, Fort Eustis was merged with nearby Langley Air Force Base as Joint Base Langley-Eustis

Miscellaneous:

Frank A. Lattanzio was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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



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

The Aircrew Badge, commonly known as Wings, is a qualification badge of the United States military that is awarded by all five branches of armed services to personnel who serve as aircrew members on board military aircraft / The badge is intended to recognize the training and qualifications required by aircrew of military aircraft / In order to qualify as an aircrew member and receive the Aircrew Badge, such personnel typically undergo advanced training in aircraft in-flight support roles / The badge was issued in three degrees: Basic, Senior, and Master / The level of seniority depended on the number of flight hours obtained and years of service in the United States Army



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAUFER

BERTHOLD J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1958

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

USS HARTLEY (DE-1029)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Berthold J. "Bud" Laufer served onboard the USS Harley as a Boiler Technician (BT)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Berthold Laufer was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 6 August 1962 / Berthold J. "Bud" Laufer passed away on 22 September 2020

USS Hartley (DE-1029) was a Dealey-class destroyer escort in the United States Navy / DE-1029 was the second ship to bear the name Hartley; she was named for Admiral Henry Hartley and was commissioned on 6 June 1957 / During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Hartley participated in antisubmarine exercises out of Newport, Rhode Island / In 1962 on, the Hartley continued operating in the Atlantic and the Caribbean and in March 1963, she conducted surveillance patrols off Cuba / The Harley was decommissioned on 8 July 1972 and sold to the Columbia Navy and renamed the Boyaca / She was stricken from the Colombian record in 1992 and her final fate is unknown



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAZARZ

DENNIS

R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE (H&S) COMPANY, H&S BATTALION, TBS, MOVEMENT CONTROL
BATTALION (MCB)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: RIFLE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/(1960-)

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Dennis Raymond Lazarz served as a Rifleman

Base Assignments:

Quantico, Virginia

Miscellaneous:

Dennis R. Lazarz was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company includes all command, administration, intelligence, operations, logistics, and communication Marines and equipment, as well as the battalion's Scout Sniper platoon and Battalion Aid Station (BAS) staffed by U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman

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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: LAZARZ

PATRICK

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: GMG3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gunner's Mate (Guns) Petty Officer 3rd Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Name: **LEGIERSKI**

MICHAEL

W.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

591ST MEDICAL COMPANY, FGGM (FORT GEORGE G MEADE) MD FIRST USA

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

AIRCRAFT CREWMAN BADGE

EXPERT BADGE: M-16 RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

EXPERT BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

2 OVERSEAS (O/S) BARS

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class (PFC) Michael William Legierski served as a Personnel Clerk

Base Assignments:

Ft. 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

Miscellaneous:



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Michael W. Legierski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The 591st Medical Company was constituted 9 February 1943 in the Army of the United States as Company B, 429th Medical Ambulance Battalion and activated 4 March 1943 at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi / Redesignated 20 April 1953 as the 591st Medical Company

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEIBELSHON

DAVID

M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David Martin Leibelshon served as a Symbolic Programmer during his tour of duty with the US Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Leibelshon graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1965 and attended college at the University of Buffalo / Leibelshon taught in the Buffalo Public School System, retiring and moving to Vista, California / David Martin David Leibelshon passed away on 18 November 2022 at the age of 75 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LENDA

DENNIS

M.

Hometown: SLOAN

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

52ND SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Dennis M. Lenda served in Vietnam for 12 months with the Army Corps of Engineers as an Engineer Equipment Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Lenda received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 11 May 1970 / Dennis M. Lenda passed away on 28 February 2018

The mission of the 52nd Signal Battalion is to engineer, install, operate and maintain forward based information systems, services and network operations that enable Joint, Interagency, Multinational, Army and Special Operations Forces / Specific tasks include: Providing command and control services; installing, operating, and maintaining C4 systems in the Battalion's area of responsibility; protecting the force; and providing sustainment /

Previously, the 52nd Signal Battalion had provided strategic and tactical command, control and computer support for Headquarters, US European Command (USEUCOM) and other Defense Department (DoD) activities / It also provided sustaining-base Information Mission Area (IMA) support, including automation, telecommunication, printing and publication and records management for Headquarters, 6th Area Support Group and all tenant units within the 6th Area Support Group's area of responsibility / The 52nd Signal Battalion was first constituted on 18 October 1927 in the Regular Army as the 52nd Signal Battalion / It was activated on



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10 February 1941 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas / On 2 February 1942, the Battalion arrived in Australia, and subsequently worked its way through Dutch New Guinea, and eventually the Philippines before the end of the Second World War / The Battalion participated in a total of 4 campaigns during the war to include: Dutch New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, and Southern Philippines / It was during these campaigns that the Battalion received the honor of being known as "MacArthur's Own" / The Battalion completed its service in the South Pacific and was inactivated in Korea on 25 January 1949 / On 1 August 1966, the Battalion was reactivated in Can Tho, Republic of Vietnam and assumed operational control of all area communications facilities in support of IV Corps and US Military Assistance Command - Vietnam Advisory Teams / Over the next 4 years, the 52nd Signal Battalion would participate in 12 separate campaigns throughout the Republic of Vietnam / In the fall of 1971, the Battalion began to stand down and was subsequently inactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington on 13 October 1971 / The unit was reactivated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 52nd Signal Battalion on 1 July 1974 in Germany and assigned to 2nd Signal Group (subsequently redesignated 2nd Signal Brigade), 5th Signal Command

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

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Name: **LESLIE III**

JAMES

D.

Hometown:

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/TWO BRONZE STARS

LEGION OF MERIT

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/DEVICE

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/ONE STAR

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

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

Service Notes:

Colonel James D. leslie III served three tours in Vietnam (1966, 1967 and 1968) as a Medic

Colonel Leslie also served in Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Shield/Storm

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, James Leslie worked as a consultant with the Veterans Administration and Military Healthcare System / James D. leslie III passed away on 20 November 2022 at the age of 82 years old

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The Legion of Merit Medal is conferred on officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States and on nationals of other countries who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services since Sept. 8, 1939, the date of the president's proclamation of the



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state of emergency that led to World War II / The Legion of Merit may be awarded for combat or noncombat services; in the case of American military personnel, if the award is for combat service it is shown by the wearing of a combat V device

The Air Force Commendation Medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the armed forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force after March 24, 1958, shall have distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service / The degree of merit must be distinctive, though it need not be unique / Acts of courage which do not involve the voluntary risk of life required for the Airman's Medal may be considered for the Air Force Commendation Medal

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

The 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 Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) is a military decoration of the United States Department of Defense, which is presented to United States Armed Forces service members who perform superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility / The decoration is most often presented to general and flag officers, followed by a lesser number of Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force colonels and Navy and Coast Guard captains / The medal is presented in the name of the United States Secretary of Defense and was established by President Gerald R. Ford on February 6, 1976, in Executive Order 11904 / It is analogous and senior to the Legion of Merit, albeit awarded for service in a joint duty capacity

The Air Force Achievement Medal (AFAM) is a decoration awarded to Air Force personnel for an outstanding achievement or meritorious service not of the same nature that warrants receiving the Commendation medal / The AFAM is only awarded to junior personnel and is most often awarded to officers with the pay grade of O-4 and below, as well as enlisted personnel below the grade of E-7 / The AFAM can be given in an area of combat but only for non-combat meritorious service and it is considered to be the lower of the U.S. Military's meritorious service medals / The Air Force Achievement medal acknowledges the contributions of the junior officers and enlisted personnel who are not eligible to receive the higher Commendation medal or the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) is a military award presented to members of the United States Armed



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Forces who distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States in a designated combat theater / The meritorious acts or services rendered must be comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit but in a duty of lesser, though considerable, responsibility

The 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 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is awarded to any unit of the U.S. Air Force (including the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard) which performs exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishes specific acts of outstanding achievement, excels in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or conducts with distinct military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to, a hostile action by any opposing foreign force



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEWIS

WILLIAM

C.

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:**

Service Notes:

William C. Lewis served in the United States Navy and the Naval Reserves

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Lewis was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and moved to Buffalo / Lewis graduated from East High School in 1963 / After his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy, Lewis earned a degree from Bryant & Stratton Business Institute and the University of Buffalo / William Lewis worked for Allied Chemical Corp., Otis Elevator and the former Meyer Memorial Hospital / Lewis went to work for the Marine Midland Bank where he was a Financial Analyst for more than 20 years / Lewis was also a Certified Independent Insurance Agent and a Notary Public / In 1982, the Mayor of Buffalo appointed Lewis as the First Project Director of the Pratt-Wilbert Housing Project / Lewis also worked for the United States Postal Service for over 27 years as a Driver and Letter Carrier, retiring in 2013 / Lewis headed the Finance Commission for St. John Baptist Church, where he was also a deacon, teacher and elder / William Lewis served as President of the Senior Choir, sang tenor and often, as a soloist / William C. Lewis passed away on 18 October 2023 at the age of 78 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEYH

JOHN

H.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant John H. Leyh served in Vietnam as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist

Base Assignments:

Phù Cát Air Force Base, Vietnam - Phù Cát Air Base (1966–1975) was a United States Air Force (USAF) and Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) facility used during the Vietnam War (1959–1975) / The base was located north of the city of Qui Nhơn in southern Vietnam / On 5 December 1971 the base was formally turned over to the RVNAF

Howard Air Force Base, Panama - Howard Air Force Base is a former United States Air Force base located in Panama / It discontinued military operations on 1 November 1999 as a result of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which specified that US military facilities in the former Panama Canal Zone be closed and the facilities be turned over to the Panamanian government / Carved out of the jungle, 500 yards from the Pacific Ocean, Howard Air Base opened in 1942 / It was named after Major Charles H. Howard (1892–1936), who flew in Panama in the late 1920s / For over 50 years, Howard Air Force Base was the bastion of US air power in Central and South America / Howard AFB served as the center for counter-drug operations, military and humanitarian airlift, contingencies, joint-nation exercises, and search and rescue / It boasted fighters, cargo planes, tankers, airborne warning and control aircraft, operational support airlift "executive" jets, and search and rescue helicopters

Miscellaneous:

John Leyh was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 17 February 1971 / John H. Leyh passed away on 17 February 2019



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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

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

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: **LEZARK**

RICHARD J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Richard J. Lezark served as a Rifleman during his tour of duty in Vietnam / Cpl. Lezark was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Lezark was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps in September 1968 / After his discharge, Lezark went to work for General Motors, Tonawanda Powertrain, UAW Local 774 where he was employed as an Electrician for 36 years until his retirement / Richard J. Lezark passed away on 12 September 2018

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

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



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

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

The 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: **LICHT SR.**

GUY

A.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (GRENADE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (AUTOMATIC RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Guy Andrew Licht, Sr. served as a Cargo Handler while stationed in Vietnam for 12 months / Specialist 4th Class Licht, Sr. was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Guy Licht, Sr. received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 14 June 1972 / Guy Andrew Licht, Sr. passed away on 16 April 2019 at the VA Hospital in Buffalo, NY

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LICURSI JR

JOSEPH

A.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph A. Licursi, Jr. passed away on 25 February 2023

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 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: LILAC SR.

DEAN

E.

Hometown: WHEATFIELD

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Dean E. Lilac served as an instructor for Jungle Operations at Fort Sherman, Panama

Base Assignments:

Fort Sherman, Panama - Fort Sherman is a former United States Army base in Panama, located on Toro Point at the Caribbean (northern) end of the Panama Canal, on the western bank of the Canal directly opposite Colón (which is on the eastern bank) / It was the primary defensive base for the Caribbean sector of the Canal, and was also the center for US jungle warfare training for some time / Its Pacific-side partner was Fort Amador / Both bases were turned over to Panama in 1999

Miscellaneous:

Dean Lilac graduated from Tonawanda High School in 1964 and in 1966, Lilac enlisted in the U.S. Army / After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Lilac worked for over thirty years at National Fuel Gas until his retirement / Lilac was the official Bugler for the Chapter 77 Vietnam Veterans of America (Tonawanda) / Dean E. Lilac Sr. passed away at the age of 75 years old on 14 May 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LINDELL

GARY

H.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Lindell retired from the General Motors Plant, Buffalo / Gary H. Lindell passed away on 25 January 2023 at the age of 73 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOBSINGER**

BRUCE

M.

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2ND MEDICAL BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Bruce M. Lobsinger was classified as a Medical Specialist and served 13 months of foreign service in South Korea, assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, US Army Pacific

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bruce Lobsinger received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 9 September 1972 / Bruce M. Lobsinger passed away on 24 August 2023 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Medical Battalion was a Divisional medical unit developed to furnish medical support for the Infantry Division. Its primary mission was to organize and conduct the necessary evacuation and medical care for casualties of the Division¹. The Medical Battalion was responsible for the evacuation of ALL casualties from the Infantry Battalion and Regimental Aid Stations. If casualties could not be gathered at the Aid Stations, the Collecting Companies would remove casualties directly from the field¹. The Medical Battalion always accompanied the Division in the field¹.

The 2nd Medical Battalion was a Divisional medical unit developed to furnish medical support for the Infantry Division / Its primary mission was to organize and conduct the necessary evacuation and medical care for casualties of the Division / The Medical Battalion was responsible for the evacuation of all casualties from the Infantry Battalion and Regimental Aid Stations / If casualties could not be gathered at the Aid Stations, the Collecting Companies would remove casualties directly from the field / The Medical Battalion always



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Town of West Seneca, New York

accompanied the Division in the field / The Medical Battalion is organized as a "miniature" medical organization in order to maintain the best operative coordination of all the existing facilities and to give flexibility to a possible expansion of the medical service when necessary

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 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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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOGUE**

JOSEPH

F.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Logue was a Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) / Joseph F. Logue passed away on 27 November 2022



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LONCAR

GEORGE

M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

309TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Captain George Michael Loncar served as an Intelligence Officer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George M. Loncar was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The 309th Fighter Squadron was initially established under Third Air Force in early 1942 as a fighter squadron at Baer Field, Indiana, flying some antisubmarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico / Deployed to the European Theater of Operations (ETO) in June 1942 without aircraft as its Curtiss P-40 Warhawks and Bell P-39 Airacobras were deemed unsuitable for use against German aircraft in long-range bomber escort duties / Was re-equipped with RAF Spitfire Vs and its pilots and technicians spent a two-month period undergoing intensive training in flying and fighting with RAF pilots in the British aircraft from airfields in southeast England / The squadron flew its first combat mission on 18 August 1942, when it attacked enemy positions in occupied France / By the end of World War II, the squadron had earned two Distinguished Unit Citations and was involved in eight campaigns / Was deployed to Southeast Asia, 1964 as part of advisory forces operating against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam / Reassigned back to TAC at Homestead AFB in 1970, as part of re-establishment of 31st TFW upon its return from duty in Southeast Asia / Equipped with McDonnell F-4E Phantom IIs / Was deployed to Thailand, July 1972, engaging North Vietnamese forces in northern South Vietnam in response to the communist spring offensive / Returned to the United States in the late fall 1972



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LONG

PAUL

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **Longbine**

Richard

S.

Hometown: **Blasdel**

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **Army**

Rank: **E-3**

Year Entered: **1965**

Year Discharged: **1967**

Unit / Squadron:

Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 83rd Artillery Regiment

Medals / Citations:

National Defense Service Medal

Marksmanship Badge: Marksman (Rifle)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 3rd Class Richard S. Longbine served as a Medical Specialist while deployed in Europe for 18 months

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Longbine was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 11 April 1967 / Richard S. Longbine passed away on 1 December 2017

The 83rd Field Artillery Regiment is a regiment of the Field Artillery Branch of the United States Army / The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The 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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LUBICK**
RICK

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

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

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Lubick graduated from Bennett High School and graduated from the University of Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Pharmacy / Ralph Lubick was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force in 1962 / Ralph Lubick passed away in December 2022 at the age of 86 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LUKASIK**
STANLEY

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:

Stanley Lukasik retired from Quebecor Printing Buffalo in Depew / Stanley Lukasik passed away on 16 July 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LYLES**

LEVELZO

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE (SCREAMING EAGLES)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Levelzo "Butch" Lyles passed away on 5 May 2020

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge around the city of Bastogne, Belgium / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 / In mid-1968, the division was reorganized and redesignated as an airmobile division; in 1974, as an air assault division / The titles reflect the division's shift from airplanes to helicopters as the primary method of delivering troops into combat / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept the 101st Airborne in the vanguard of U.S. land combat forces in recent conflicts



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LYONS**

MICHAEL

D.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS MAST

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Michael D. Lyons served as an Administrative Clerk with the 2nd Marine Regiment

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:

Michael Lyons received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 14 July 1973 / Michael Lyons retired from the Buffalo Police Department / Michael D. Lyons passed away on 10 December 2017 at the age of 65 years old

1st Battalion, 2nd Marines (1/2) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, consisting of approximately 900 Marines and sailors / The battalion, callsign "Typhoon" falls under the command of the 2nd Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / 1/2 was activated on January 1, 1933, at Camp Haitien, Haiti / In June 1942, the battalion was deployed to the Pacific theater of World War II participating in the bloody "island hopping" campaign, fighting at Guadalcanal, Tarawa,



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa / After the war, 1/2 spent a brief period on occupation duty in Japan, including Nagasaki, before returning to Camp Lejeune / The battalion has been deployed to the Caribbean and Mediterranean regions, seeing operational service during the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), Dominican intervention (1965), operations in the Persian Gulf (1988), Eastern Exit (Somalia evacuation, 1991), Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990–91), Haitian refugee (1992), Somalia (1993), and Cuba (1994) and Operation Noble Obelisk-Freetown, Sierra Leone (1997)

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 Meritorious Mast is a formal and ceremonial acknowledgment recognizing an enlisted person being awarded a Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation, or a personal decoration whenever personal performance is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty by a demonstration of exceptional industry, judgment, or initiative

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