



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PACHOLSKI

JEROME

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Jerome J. Pacholski served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PACHULSKI**

JAMES

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

1ST BATTALION, 44TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 BRONZE SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class James F. Pachulski served 11 months in Vietnam as a Radio Operator / Pachulski was assigned to the US Military Assistance Command - Vietnam (MAC-V) where he distinguished himself by meritorious service with the 1st Battalion, 44th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James F. Pachulski was discharged from the US Army on 17 January 1970 / James F. Pachulski passed away on 1 July 2022

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

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



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

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

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

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



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Name: **PACHULSKI**

JAMES

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

US MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND-VIETNAM (MAC-V)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class James F. Pachulski was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months where he served as a Radio Operator / Specialist 4th Class Pachulski distinguished himself by meritorious service with the 1st Battalion, 44th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Pachulski received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 17 January 1970 / James F. Pachulski passed away on 1 July 2022

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



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U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense / MACV was created on 8 February 1962, in response to the increase in United States military assistance to South Vietnam / MACV was first implemented to assist the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Vietnam, controlling every advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam, but was reorganized on 15 May 1964 and absorbed MAAG Vietnam to its command when combat unit deployment became too large for advisory group control / In April 1966, all Army communications-electronics resources in South Vietnam were combined in a single formation, the 1st Signal Brigade which supported the combat signal battalions of the divisions and field forces in each corps area

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

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



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Name: **PADDEN JR.**

EDWARD

T.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **E-5**

Year Entered: **1967**

Year Discharged: **1969**

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "C", 3RD BATTALION, 2ND BRIGADE ARMY TECHNICAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

EXPERT BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: M-16 RIFLE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Edward T. Padden Jr. served as a Indirect Fire Infantryman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward T. Padden Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

A Indirect Fire Infantryman, is a member of a mortar squad, section or platoon / The mortar is an infantry unit's most powerful weapon

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 Air Medal is awarded to anyone who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Armed Forces of the United States, and has distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PAJAK

RICHARD

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-1

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Miscellaneous:

Richard Pajak was a member of AMVETS Post 72 / Richard F. Pajak passed away on 18 October 2020



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Name: **PAOLETTI**

ANTHONY N.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

278TH SIGNAL COMPANY (SPT)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (SP-4) Anthony Nino Paoletti served as a Radio and Carr Operator

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony N. Paoletti was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

The 278th Signal Company was constituted 12 February 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 1308th Signal Pigeon Company / Disbanded 29 February 1944 at Gulfport, Mississippi / Activated 28 April 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 1308th Signal Pigeon Company / Redesignated 26 October 1944 as the 278th Signal Pigeon Company / Inactivated 30 October 1945 in Germany / Redesignated 25 June 1964 as the 278th Signal Company, allotted to the Regular Army, and activated at Fort Lewis, Washington / Inactivated 1 September 1970 in Vietnam / The 278th Signal Company received three Meritorious Unit Commendations in Vietnam

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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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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: **PARK**

ROBERT

J.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Robert Park went to work for Quebecor where he retired after 43 years / Robert J. Park passed away on 14 October 2023



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Name: **PAULY**

GARY

M.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1974

Unit / Squadron:

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth Class (SP4) Gary M. Pauly served in the U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Division and was stationed in Dongducheon, Korea, 5 miles south from Panmunjom, DMZ, site of the signing of the Korean War Armistice

Base Assignments:

Camp Casey - Dongducheon, Korea - Camp Casey was named in 1952 after Major Hugh Boyd Casey, who was killed in a plane crash near the camp site during the Korean War / Camp Casey is one of several U.S. Army bases in South Korea near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / Camp Casey was home to several of the main combat units of the Second Infantry Division / Among them were the Second Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment, the First Battalion of the 72nd Armored Regiment (Crusaders), and the 210th Field Artillery Brigade / Camp Casey is occupied by over 6,300 military personnel and more than 2,500 civilians

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Gary M. Pauly returned to West Seneca where he attended Niagara University / Pauly graduated from the university in 1978 with a degree in social welfare / In 1979, Pauly joined the West Seneca Police Department, serving in the Family Offences and Domestic Violence Bureau / In January 2015, Gary Pauly retired from the West Seneca Police Department after 35 years of service / After his retirement, Pauly served as a West Seneca Court Security Officer / Gary Pauly is a member of American Legion Post 735



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PAWLOWSKI JR

JOSEPH

P.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Pawlowski was a retiree of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation / Joseph Paul Pawlowski Jr. passed away on 3 April 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PERKINS

JOHN

V.

Hometown: LAKEVIEW

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION UNIT CITATION RIBBON

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL
W/BRONZE STAR;

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14)

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant John V. "Jack" Perkins was assigned as a Rifleman and served 14 months of combat duty in Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John V. Perkins was Honorably Discharged from the US Marine Corps on 7 April 1972 / John V. "Jack" Perkins passed away on 6 December 2021

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / The 1st Marine Division participated in combat duty during World War I, World War II and the Korean War / In August 1965, the division participated in Operation Starlite, the first major engagement against the Vietcong (VC) for American ground troops in South Vietnam / The 1st Marine Division fought in many key battles in Vietnam until 1971 when it was transferred back to Camp Pendleton / The 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action in South Vietnam

It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready



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force of more than 19,000 personnel. It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed".

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal also known as the Vietnam Civil Actions Medal or Civil Actions Medal, is a military decoration of the former South Vietnamese government (1955–75) / The medal was created on May 12, 1964 during the Vietnam War / The Civil Actions Medal was awarded to the South Vietnamese military and its allies' military personnel or units that performed outstanding achievements in the field of civil affairs / The medal was awarded in two classes, with the first-class intended for commissioned officers and the second class for enlisted personnel / Individuals who were cited received the medal, ribbon, and a citation

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 completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S.



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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: PERLINGER

DANIEL

M.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE RIBBON W/4 BATTLE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Daniel M. Perlinger served as a Field Radio Operator during 12 months of deployment to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Perlinger received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 6 February 1970 / Daniel M. Perlinger passed away on 17 April 2018

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

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Name: **PETERSON**

PHILIP R.

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:

Philip R. Peterson served as a Medic Paratrooper in the Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army Philip Peterson became a Master of many building trades including carpentry / Philip R. Peterson passed away on 7 November 2023 at the age of 71 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PETRI**

RICHARD

W.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman First Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PHILLIPS

JAMES

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 90 HARLEM ROAD

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

88TH ARTILLERY GROUP (NIKE MISSILES)

1ST AIR CAVALRY

Medals / Citations:

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (VIETNAM)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (RESERVES)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class James F. Phillips was stationed with the 1st Air Cavalry at Camp Radcliff in the district of An Khê, South Vietnam / SP4 Phillips fought and survived a surprise attack on his base during the Tet Offensive / On January 1968, 84,000 communist soldiers of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam launched coordinated attacks against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States, and their allies / This, the largest battle of the Vietnam War, became known as the Tet Offensive

Base Assignments:

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Established in 1917 and named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Lewis was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States / Ft. Lewis was the home to the 4th Infantry Division until their departure for Vietnam in 1966, leaving the fort as a personnel transfer and training center / Fort Lewis was deactivated in 1991.

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. Knox, Kentucky - Named after Henry Knox, the Continental Army's chief of artillery during the Revolutionary



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War and the country's first Secretary of War, Ft. Knox is located south of Louisville / Ft. Knox holds the Army human resources Center of Excellence (includes the Army Human Resources Command, United States Army Cadet Command and the United States Army Accessions Command / For 60 years, Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and the U.S. Army Armor School (moved to Fort Benning), and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the M1 Abrams main battle tank

Ft. Devens, Massachusetts - Located in the counties of Middlesex and Worcester, the fort was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / The 2nd Infantry Brigade was inactivated on 19 February 1963 at Fort Devens; in 1962 when it was reflagged as 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. It was reactivated on 23 October 1963 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and moved (with the rest of the Division) to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 1964 / Fort Devens was also the home of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1968 until the Group's move to Fort Carson, Colorado in 1995 / It was also the home of the 39th Engineer Battalion (CBT) until the 39th was deactivated in 1992 / Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

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

Nike Base (CD27), Wilmington, Ohio - Located between Dayton and Cincinnati, the site became operational in 1960 to defend the industrial centers of the upper Ohio River Valley / Nike, named for the mythical Greek goddess of victory, was the name given to a program that deployed a guided surface-to-air missile defense system / The base was closed in 1970 with the termination of the Nike Missile System

Camp Radcliff, South Vietnam - Camp Radcliff (also known as An Khê Army Airfield, An Khê Base or the Golfcourse) is a former U.S. Army base in the An Khê District in central Vietnam / Camp Radcliff was established in late August 1965 by the 70th Engineer Battalion as the base camp for the 1st Cavalry Division / The camp was named after Cavalry Major Donald Radcliff, the 1st Cavalry's first combat death, who was killed on 18 August 1965 while supporting U.S. Marines in his helicopter gunship during Operation Starlite

Miscellaneous:

James Phillips graduated from West Seneca West High School in 1966 / After graduation, James worked at Costas Pizza Lounge as a pizza maker until he received his draft notification papers / James served in the Army from 1966 through 1970 / After his Honorable Discharge, James Phillips became a press operator for the F. N. Burt Company until 1983 / Between 1983 and 2008, James worked at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Wende Correctional Facility

James Phillips joined the U. S. Army Reserve in 1980 and retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class in 2007

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 / The division was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization



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Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, and in the War in Afghanistan / When the 1st Cavalry Division was deployed in the Vietnam War, the division become an air assault division as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commonly referred to as the 1st Air Cavalry Division / The use of helicopters on such large scale as troop carriers, cargo lift ships, medevacs, and as aerial rocket artillery, was never before implemented, but by doing so it freed the infantry from the tyranny of terrain to attack the enemy at the time and place of its choosing / Deployed to Camp Radcliff, An Khe, Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was equipped with the new M16 rifle, the UH-1 troop carrier helicopter, UH-1-C gunships, the CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter, and the massive CH-54 Skycrane cargo helicopter / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PHILLIPS

MICHAEL

W.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Phillips worked as a Project Manager for the Ames Department Stores / Michael W. Phillips passed away on 13 January 2023 at the age of 71 years old and interred in St. Mark Lutheran Cemetery



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PILOZZI

RONALD

J.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMYBWAN

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald J. Pillozzi graduated from Bishop Gibbons High School and was a graduate of Canisius College / Pillozzi retired from General Motors after 30 years where he was a Quality Control Supervisor / Ronald Pillozzi also served the City of Tonawanda as both an Alderman and Mayor for 16 years / Ronald J. Pillozzi passed away at the age of 74 years old on 4 June 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PIWOWARCZYK

RONALD

E.

Hometown:

Address:

☒ Vietnam Era

☐ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: RM2

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☐ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

RADIOMAN PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: POLAK

THOMAS

A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "A", 3RD BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY, 5TH UNITED STATES ARMY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE STARS
AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Thomas Anthony Polak served as a Light Weapons Infantryman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas A. Polak was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

The 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry was constituted 3 May 1861 in the Regular Army / The 1st Infantry was assigned 17 November 1917 to the 5th Division (later redesignated as the 5th Infantry Division) / In July 1968, the 11th deployed for action in Vietnam and operated in Cam Lộ, Đông Hà, Quảng Trị, and Khe Sanh / The 11th Infantry participated in several major operations, including Operation Dewey Canyon II, Operation Wolfe Mountain, and Operation Green River / The 11th Infantry Regiment suffered 153 killed in Vietnam / The 11th returned to Fort Carson on 6 August 1971 and served there as part of the 4th Infantry Division until 15 January 1984 when the battalion was inactivated

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



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POLCHLOPEK**
JOSEPH

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: POLILLA

JOHN

C.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: INDIAN CHURCH ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

1967 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

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

Service Notes:

Polilla saw temporary duty assignments in Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Wake Island, Guam, and Okinawa / Sergeant John C. Polilla was also assigned to the USAF Security Service where he served as a security courier

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

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



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Camp Drake, Asaka City, Saitama, Japan - Located northwest of Tokyo, Camp Drake was one of many former American bases around Tokyo / Originally a golf club, it became the site of an army uniform factory during World War II, and was subsequently used as a training camp by the US army / During the Vietnam War, Camp Drake served as a joint US Army/Air Force base, active until the 1970's / Camp Drake contained the 249th General Hospital, which handled troops coming out of Vietnam and also housed the communication center for Far East military operations

Miscellaneous:

John C. Polilla graduated from Bishop Timon High School / Polilla attended Erie Community College before entering military service / After his Honorable Discharge from the Air Force, Polilla found employment with the Bethlehem Steel Corp until the giant steelmaker finally shut down / Polilla went to work for the Erie County Highway Department, retiring after 35 years of service

A temporary duty assignment (TDY) refers to a United States military personnel travel assignment at a location other than the personnel's permanent duty station / This type of secondary assignment is usually of relatively short duration, typically from two days to 179 days in length



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POLITO**

VINCENT

L.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1961

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

USS HENLEY (DD-762)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Third-Class Vincent Louis Polito served 21 months aboard the USS Henley during the Cuban Missile Blockade in 1962

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Vincent Polito was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 6 August 1963 / Vincent Louis Polito passed away on 25 May 2021

USS Henley (DD-762), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named Henley, was named after Captain Robert Henley (5 January 1783 – 7 October 1828); an officer in the United States Navy during the Quasi-War with France, the War of 1812 and the Second Barbary War / The Henley was commissioned on 8 October 1946 / Henley patrolled with other United Nations ships in the summer of 1948 as the Israeli-Arab dispute threatened to erupt into war / During the Cuban Missile Crisis in the fall of 1962 over offensive missiles stationed in Cuba, Henley joined the fleet "quarantining" the island / Following this, she then returned to a peacetime pattern of readiness operations / The Henley was decommissioned in 1973 and sold 24 June 1974 and broken up for scrap

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: POLLUTRO

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

7272 SUPPORT GROUP, THIRD US AIR FORCE, US AIR FORCE EUROPE-AFRICA

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Michael J. Pollutro served as an Apprentice Cook while stationed in Libya for 15 months with the 7272nd Support Group, Third Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael J. Pollutro passed away on 3 February 2023

The Third Air Force (Air Forces Europe) (3 AF) is a numbered air force of the United States Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) / Its headquarters is Ramstein Air Base, Germany / It is responsible for all U.S. air forces in Europe and Africa, and operations and support activities in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command's areas of responsibility

The Cold War Service Medal Act authorizes a service medal for those in the military between September 1945 and December 1991 who served on active duty for 24 consecutive months during the Cold War; were deployed outside of the continental U.S. for a period of at least 30 days during the Cold War; or were a member of a reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold War

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: POMERHN

WILLIAM

A.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

William A. "Bill" Pomerhn was a Vietnam Veteran

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Pomerhn was a University of Buffalo graduate and worked as an Engineer / Pomerhn was also a Christian Pastor / William A. "Bill" Pomerhn, after battling Parkinson's Disease for many years, passed away on 5 August 2023 at the age of 79 years old / William Pomerhn is interred at Elma Cemetery, Elma, New York



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Name: **PONCE**
JOHN

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- ☐ Vietnam Era
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-6

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

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

COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 174TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

RVN CROSS OF GALLANTRY MEDAL W/PALM & FRAME

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant John Ponce served 18 months of combat duty in Vietnam as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / SSGT
Ponce also served 8 years in the Army National Guard of New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Ponce received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 13 November 1970 and was Honorably Discharged from the Army National Guard of New York on 13 October 1978 / John Ponce passed away on 6 August 2018

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5, nicknamed Dark Horse) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps. The battalion is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and consists of approximately 1,000 Marines and Fleet Marine Force Navy personnel / 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, along with the rest of the 5th Marine Regiment, was first organized on June 8, 1917, as the United States prepared for World War I / They participated in campaigns and battles such as Bois de Belleau, Vierzy, Château-Thierry, Pont-a-Mousson, Limey Sector, Fleury, Meuse-Argonne, Blanc Mont, St Michiel, Leffincourt and Soissons m/ During World War II, Marines of 3/5 served in Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu, and Okinawa / At Peleliu, they were the last Marine battalion to be shipped out before the army took over / During October 1949, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, were reactivated on Guam and in August 1950 the battalion deployed to fight against the North Korean army's



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invasion of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) during the Korean War / The 3rd Battalion fought at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / It inflicted heavy casualties on Chinese forces at the Battle of Hwacheon / The battalion's nickname "Darkhorse" sprang from the radio call sign of its commander in Korea, Colonel Robert Taplett, who was known as "Darkhorse Six" / At the close of hostilities, the 3rd Battalion returned to the United States / From April 1966 to March 1971, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, deployed to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War / They fought in Chu Lai, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Operation Hastings, Operation Union, and Union II in the Que Son valley (where they received a Presidential Unit Citation), the Battle of Hue, An Hoa, Operation Swift in the Que Son Valley (where they received a second Presidential Unit Citation), and Firebase Ross / In October 1989 the battalion deployed to Panama / The 3rd Battalion was deployed for the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the battalion was again deployed in 2004 to capture the city of Fallujah from insurgents' control / In November 2004, the battalion, along with several other units, participated in Operation Phantom Fury (also known as Al Fajr (Dawn)) and was part of one of the biggest battles in Iraq to that time / Members of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, conducted operations in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom between September 2010 and April 2011, where twenty-five of the battalion's Marines were killed in action and 200 were wounded

he 174th Infantry Regiment was an infantry regiment of the United States Army, New York Army National Guard / It traced its heritage back to the 74th New York State Militia formed in Buffalo in 1854 / During the 1980's, "A" Co 1/174th was located at the Masten Ave Armory in Buffalo NY, and Bravo Co 1/174th was located at the Tonawanda Armory located at 79 Delaware Street in Tonawanda, NY / Both Units were part of the 42nd Infantry Division / In the early part of 1981, Bravo Company 1/174th was relocated to the Seneca St. Armory, Hornell, N.Y

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

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

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

The 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



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and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961 / Gallantry Cross with Palm: cited at the Armed Forces level

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POWERS**

GERALD

E.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **72 MONCLAIR AVENUE**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **PFC (E-3)**

Year Entered: **1960**

Year Discharged: **1966**

Unit / Squadron:

390TH INFANTRY TRAINING REGIMENT RESERVE

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Gerald E. Powers served as the Company Payroll Clerk

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 1915 / 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)

Camp Kilmer, New Jersey - Constructed in 1942, the camp is named Joyce Kilmer, a poet killed in World War I while serving with 69th Infantry Regiment / Camp Kilmer was a staging area and part of an installation of the New York Port of Embarkation / The camp was organized as part of the Army Service Forces Transportation Corps / Troops were quartered at Camp Kilmer in preparation for transport to the European Theater of Operations in World War II / Eventually, it became the largest processing center for troops heading overseas and returning from World War II, processing over 2.5 million soldiers / During the Cold War after the failed 1956 Hungarian Revolution 30,000 refugees were resettled at Camp Kilmer / In 1963, most of the camp's 1600 acres was auctioned and sold to local governments, and Rutgers University / Camp Kilmer officially closed in 2009.

Miscellaneous:

Gerald E. Powers attended Canisius College and graduated in May, 1959 / Gerald Powers was employed by the Erie County Department of Social Services as a caseworker prior to entering the Army / Powers received a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Buffalo in May, 1967 / Gerald Powers worked for the West Seneca Development Center as a Team Leader until his retirement in March, 1997



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POWIS**

BENJAMIN E.

Hometown: EAST AURORA

Address:

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PO3

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 3rd Class Benjamin E. Powis served aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, a fixed wing attack carrier, as a Boiler Technician for 2 1/2 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Benjamin Powis received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy on 9 December 1970 / Benjamin E. Powis passed away on 2 July 2023 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) (formerly CVA-67), is an aircraft carrier, and considered a supercarrier / She is the last conventionally powered carrier built for the Navy / The Kennedy was commissioned on 7 September 1968 / The USS Kennedy was named after John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States / The Kennedy was originally designated a CVA, for fixed wing attack carrier, however the designation was changed to CV, for fleet carrier / John F. Kennedy's maiden voyage, and several of her subsequent voyages, were on deployments to the Mediterranean during much of the 1970s to help deal with the steadily deteriorating situation in the Middle East / During the 1970s John F. Kennedy was upgraded to handle the F-14 Tomcat and the S-3 Viking aircraft / On 20 June 1975, the John F. Kennedy was the target of possible arson, suffering eight fires, with no injuries, while at port in Norfolk, Virginia / In August 1980, the John F. Kennedy left Norfolk, Virginia and voyaged to the Mediterranean Sea / In January 1982, the John F. Kennedy, with Carrier Air Wing Three (AC), sailed as the flagship for Carrier Group Four (CCG-4) from Norfolk, Va. on her first visit to the Indian Ocean after port visits to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Malaga, Spain, and transiting the Suez Canal / In October 1983 John F. Kennedy was diverted to Beirut, Lebanon from her planned Indian Ocean deployment, after the Beirut barracks bombing



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

killed 241 U.S. military personnel taking part in the Multinational Force in Lebanon, and spent the rest of that year and early 1984 patrolling the region / On 4 December 1983 ten A-6 aircraft from John F. Kennedy along with A-6 and A-7 aircraft from USS Independence took part in a bombing raid over Beirut, in response to two U.S. F-14 aircraft being fired upon the previous day / In August 1988 John F. Kennedy departed on her twelfth overseas deployment / During this deployment, a pair of MiG-23 Flogger fighter aircraft from Libya approached the carrier task force, which was 81 miles off the shore of Libya near the declared Libyan territorial waters of the Gulf of Sidra / John F. Kennedy launched two F-14 Tomcats from VF-32 "Fighting Swordsmen" to intercept the incoming MiGs / The U.S. planes were sent to escort the MiGs away from the task force but during the course of the intercept, the MiGs were determined to be hostile and were both shot down / During the 11 September attacks of 2001 unfolded, John F. Kennedy and her battle group were ordered to support Operation Noble Eagle, establishing air security along the mid-Atlantic seaboard, including Washington, D.C. / The John F. Kennedy was decommissioned on 23 March 2007 and on 6 October 2021, the John F. Kennedy was sold for one-cent to International Shipbreaking Limited



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PRABUCKI

EDWARD

D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: E-2

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

BATTERY "F", 2ND BATTALION, 11TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Edward David Prabucki served as a Field Artillery Fire Control Man

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward D. Prabucki was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

Marine Corps Field Artillery Fire Control Man assist in delivery accurate fire to enemy positions / The Marine Corps Field Artillery team is an important component of ground infantry / Soldiers provide firepower and support to assist in combat operations

2d Battalion, 11th Marines (callsign "Patriot") have served as an integral component of the Marine Corps since 1918 when the battalion was formed in France at the end of World War I / Participating in every major conflict of the 20th and 21st century, the unit has primarily served as a cannon artillery battalion since the beginning of World War II / The battalion is comprised of three cannon batteries (Battery E, Battery F, and Battery G), a headquarters battery, and a fire support battery / Each firing battery fields the M777A2 howitzer capable of firing a 100-lb explosive projectile over 15 miles with precision accuracy / Within headquarters battery the unit's staff and support sections are formed into administrative, intelligence, operations, survey, logistics, motor-transport, medical, supply, maintenance, and communications elements / Each support section enables the battalion to field multiple combat formations in order to deploy worldwide in support of combatant commands and Marine Corps objectives / The Fire Support battery is comprised of Fire Support Teams that liaise with



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infantry-maneuver units and provide critical sensing, planning, coordination, and execution of supporting arms fires for the maneuver commander / The battalion is part of the historic 11th Marine Regiment (callsign "Cannon Cockers") and the legendary 1st Marine Division (callsign "Blue Diamond")

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PRESTON**

KENNETH

H.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☒ **Served in War Zone**

Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Kenneth Preston joined the Hamburg Police Department / Preston retired as a Detective Sergeant and moved to Fort Myers Beach, Florida / Preston was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1419 in Lakeview and the American Legion Post 274 in Fort Myers Beach / Kenneth H. Preston passed away on 22 October 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PSARADELIS

JAMES

C.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James C. Psaradelis completed Air Force Basic Training in 1965, then transferred to the Air National Guard in Niagara Falls / James Psaradelis served 12 months in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Psaradelis suffered health issues as a result of exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam / James C. Psaradelis passed away on 9 September 2018



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PULKA

DAVID

M.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

553RD FIELD COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SILVER SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

EXPERT MEDAL: RIFLE

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant David Michael Pula served in Vietnam 25 March 1968 through 23 March 1969

Base Assignments:

Fort Hood, Texas

Miscellaneous:

David M. Pula was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940