



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WAGNER**

**DAVID**

**A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

592ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 24TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class David A. Wagner served as a Heavy Vehicle Driver during his 12-month deployment to South Vietnam, assigned to the 592nd Transportation Company, 24th Transportation Battalion

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Wagner received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 10 September 1968 / David A. Wagner passed away on 30 July 2023

The 24th Transportation Battalion was originally constituted on 1 May 1936 as Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 24th Quartermaster Regiment / Effective 1 August 1946 the Quartermaster Corps transferred the functions and responsibilities of truck and aviation units to the Transportation Corps / On 1 August 1946, while still on inactive status, the 24th Battalion was converted and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 24th Transportation Corps Truck Battalion / The 592nd Transportation Company was deployed to Vung Ro Bay on 20 May 1968 / Its mission was to supervise the terminal service and light truck units engaged in the discharge of deep draft vessels, discharging and loading of shallow draft vessels engaged in inter-coastal shipping and port and beach clearance at Vung Ro Bay

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



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members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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

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

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



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**Name:** **WAILAND**

**FRANK**

**J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL WITH '60 DEVICE

2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

EXPERT BADGE: M-14 RIFLE

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE: M-16 RIFLE

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - The base was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for Union Civil War general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s in recognition of the Belvoir plantation that once occupied the site, but the adjacent United States Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys Engineer Center retains part of the original name / Fort Belvoir was initially the home of the Army Engineer School prior to its relocation in the 1980s to Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri / Fort Belvoir serves as the headquarters for the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Acquisition University, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Defense Technical Information Center, the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, the United States Army Military Intelligence Readiness Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, all agencies of the United States Department of Defense

Lai Khe, Vietnam - Also known as Lai Khê Base, Lai Khe was a former Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and U.S. Army base, located along Highway 13 to the northwest of Saigon and north of Thủ Dầu Một in southern Vietnam

Nellingen Kaserne, Germany - Nellingen Kaserne was a U.S. Army airfield and barracks near Stuttgart in the town



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of Ostfildern, Germany / The site was selected in the 1930s as the site for a new airport for Stuttgart but was instead developed as a military airfield named Fliegerhorst Nellingen in 1938 / Following World War II the U.S. used Nellingen to host various units until after the Cold War and Gulf War / Nellingen Kaserne was closed as part of the US Forces drawdown after German Reunification and the Gulf War / In 1992 the installation was closed and the property was returned to the German government, which partially razed and redeveloped the site

## *Miscellaneous:*

Frank Wailand was a graduate of Erie Community College (ECC) and the University of Arizona Architectural School located in Tuscon, Arizona

The 1st Infantry Division is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War I / It was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965 the division had participated in three major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II, under the command of MG Jonathan O. Seaman / In 1966, the division took part in Operation Marauder, Operation Crimp II, and Operation Rolling Stone, all in the early part of the year / In 1967 the division fought in Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, and Operation Shenandoah II / During the 1968 Tet Offensive, the 1st Infantry Division secured the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, The Big Red One conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional operation, Atlas Wedge / In January 1970, the 1st Infantry was reassigned and returned to Fort Riley, Kansas / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor / During its involvement in the Vietnam war, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners-of-war

The 1st Engineer Battalion's history can be traced back to 15 May 1846 when a company of miners, sappers, and pontoniers was formed at West Point, New York / On 2 May 1965 the battalion, under the command of Lt. Colonel Howard L. Sargent, Jr., deployed to South Vietnam as part of the 1st Infantry Division / For five years the battalion cleared obstacles, built roads, airfields, basecamps and bridges in support of numerous combat operations including Junction City I and II and the Tet Offensive of 1968 / The battalion's DieHard Tunnel Rat section cleared the extensive Vietcong tunnel systems with little more than small arms and demolitions / The battalion received four Meritorious Unit Commendations for actions during the Vietnam War



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**Name:** **WAKELAM**  
**DENIS**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

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

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

507TH TRANSPORTATION CORPS

**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:**

Specialist 5th Class Denis Wakelam served in Vietnam for 12 Months as an Aircraft Power Train Repairman while attached to the 507th Transportation Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Denis Wakelam was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 23 June 1971 / Denis Wakelam passed away on 14 July 2018

The 507th was constituted 23 February 1943 in the Army of the United States as Company A, 507th Port Battalion, Transportation Corps and activated 26 April 1943 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts

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



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January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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





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**Name:** **WALKOWIAK**

**JAMES**

**L.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James L. Walkowiak passed away on 3 July 2022



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**Name:** **WALLS III**  
**WALTER S.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

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

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** MAJOR

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

US ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Walter Scott Walls III, MD was awarded the Army Accomodation Medal in 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscelleaneous:**

Walter Walls III graduated from the Park School in 1956 and then attended Cornell University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1961 / Shortly after, Walls attended the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, where he pursued a residency and fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynecology / Walls joined the Hamburg OB-GYN in Hamburg, New York as a Board Certified Physician of Obstetrics and Gynecology (FACOG) / Over his 25 year career, Walls affiliated with South Buffalo Mercy Hospital, Children's Hospital of Buffalo and Buffalo General Hospital / Walls also volunteered at the Buffalo Zoo as a Docent / Walter Walls retired to Bainbridge Island, Washington / Walter Scott Walls III, MD battled against Parkinson's Disease before passing away on 29 January 2023 at the age of 84 years old

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

The Medical Corps (MC) of the U.S. Army is a staff corps (non-combat specialty branch) of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) consisting of commissioned medical officers – physicians with either an M.D. or a D.O. degree, at least one year of post-graduate clinical training, and a state medical license / The MC traces its earliest origins to the first physicians recruited by the Medical Department of the Army, created by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 / The US Congress made official the designation "Medical Corps" in 1908, although





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the term had long been in use informally among the Medical Department's regular physicians



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**Name:** WALSH

THOMAS J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 1969

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY (HHC), 34TH ENGINEER GROUP  
CONSTRUCTION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 1 SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION HONOR AWARD

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (SP-4) Thomas Joseph Walsh served as a Radio Operator and stationed in Vietnam from 16 January 1970 through 16 February 1971 / Corporal Walsh was assigned to Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 34th Engineer Group (Construction), 20th Engineer Brigade at Bin Thuy, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Walsh was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940 / Thomas J. Walsh passed away on 6 August 2023

Headquarters and Headquarters company is responsible for the health, morale, welfare, training, discipline, conduct and combat readiness of Soldiers assigned to HQ CASCOM, and their Families / The 34th Engineer Group was deployed to Bien Hoa and Saigon, Vietnam in 1967 / The 34th Engineer Group were re-deployed to Phu Loi in 1968 and finally re-deploying from Vinh Long in 1971

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The Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal is a military decoration of the former South Vietnamese government (1955–75) / The medal was created on 12 May 1964 during the Vietnam War and 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 unit citation was awarded to US Army units during the Vietnam War as the Civil Actions Honor Medal, FC / The award does not have a medal, it is a ribbon award



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**Name:** **WALTER**  
**JOHN** **A**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

- ☐ Vietnam Era  
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CALVARY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), 1ST/21ST FIELD ARTILLERY

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR W/OAK LEAF CLUSTER

AIR MEDAL W/4 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant John "Jack" Anthony Walter served with the Field Artillery as a forward observer and artillery specialist in Vietnam / Lt. John Walter earned the Silver Star for gallantry and action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile enemy force in the Republic of Vietnam / Lt. Walter, serving as an artillery liaison, repeatedly came under heavy enemy fire as he diverted devastating aerial and artillery on enemy positions with complete disregard for his own safety

First Lieutenant Walter was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster when his platoon encountered small arms and automatic weapons fire from an enemy bunker complex / Lt. Walter called for artillery and air strikes and his pinpoint accuracy forced the enemy to flee back to their fortified positions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Walter was born in Buffalo and attended St. Matthew's School / Walter graduated from Canisius High School in 1964 and attended Gannon University (Erie, Pennsylvania), where he was enrolled in the ROTC and was a platoon member in 1967 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, John Walter went to work for the Sierra Research Corp in 1972 as a Staff Accountant, becoming Comptroller in 1982 / In 1989, Walter took the post as Comptroller for the Calspan Advanced Technology Center in 1989 and was Vice President in charge of the Accounting Department until his retirement / Walter was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amherst Township VFW Post #416 / John "Jack" Anthony Walter passed away on 21 July 2023 due to the



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## effects of Agent Orange

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 Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

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

An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem / It is authorized by the United States Armed Forces for a specific set of decorations and awards of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Department of the Air Force / The bronze oak leaf cluster represents one additional award, while the silver oak leaf cluster is worn in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters

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

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**Name:** **WASHINGTON**

**CHARLES**

**E.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **NAVY**

**Rank:** **E-3**

**Year Entered:** **1970**

**Year Discharged:** **1974**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**USS HAWKINS (DD-873)**

**Medals / Citations:**

**NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL**

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

**Service Notes:**

Seaman Charles Edward Washington served as a Machinist aboard the USS Hawkins / During Washington's deployment, the USS Hawkins supported the Apollo Space Missions and operated the Standing Naval Force Atlantic in Northern Europe waters

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Washington was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 26 April 1974 / Charles Edward Washington passed away on 8 May 2017

USS Hawkins (DD-873) was a Gearing-class destroyer in the United States Navy / Hawkins, originally to be named Beatty, but renamed on 22 June 1944 and was commissioned on 10 February 1945 / Following World War II, the ship saw service in the Korean War / During her four months of Korean duty, Hawkins screened the mobile aircraft carrier forces during strikes on enemy positions and supply lines, provided antisubmarine protection, and controlled jet aircraft in combat air patrols / In 1961 she operated with a special Task Group in connection with American space experiments and missile tests off Cape Canaveral, Florida / When the introduction of offensive missiles into Cuba in 1962 threatened the security of the United States, Hawkins joined with other ships in quarantining that Caribbean country, cruising the Caribbean from late October until December / Hawkins took part in the United States space project in November 1969 when it was assigned to the Apollo 12 Atlantic Recovery Force / The ship was fitted with special capsule recovery gear and practiced along with a Navy Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) to be prepared to recover the space capsule in the Atlantic if the Pacific landing was aborted / On 9 February 1971, Hawkins again participated in the space program as a backup





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recovery ship in the Atlantic for Apollo 14 / The USS Hawkins was decommissioned on 16 October 1998 The ship was stricken from the Navy List on 1 October 1979 and sold to the Taiwan in 1983 / The ship was scrapped in the late 1990s

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**Name:** WASIELA

JAMES

E.

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO3

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS OKINAWA (LPH-3)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Radioman 3rd Class James E. Wasiela served onboard the USS Okinawa for 3 years and 8 months / During the deployment of PO3 Wasiela, the USS Okinawa was stationed off Vietnam as a mobile base from which the Marine Corps forces could quickly strike via helicopters at the Communist insurgents

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Wasiela was Honorably Discharged from the United States navy on 5 march 1968 / James E. Wasiela passed away on 16 June 2017

USS Okinawa (LPH-3) was the second Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship of the United States Navy / She was the second Navy ship assigned the name "Okinawa", in honor of the World War II Battle of Okinawa / She was commissioned on 14 April 1962 and departed Philadelphia on 20 June 1962 for her homeport, Norfolk, Virginia / In April 1965, while participating in an exercise off Puerto Rico, Okinawa was alerted and sent to an area off the Dominican Republic to act as medical evacuation ship with HMM-263 (Reinf) and the 1st Bn., 2d Marines during the Dominican crisis / The mission concluded on 29 May 1965 / Okinawa left on 10 March 1967 for her first deployment off Vietnam / On 13 April, while sailing from Okinawa to Taiwan, the ship was diverted by a distress call, and the next day rescued all 38 persons from the grounded Panamanian vessel Silver Peak near the Sento Shosho Islands / While off Vietnam, Okinawa was a mobile base from which a well-equipped force of marines could quickly strike via helicopters at the Communist insurgents / She returned to San Diego on 5 December 1967 / On 4 April 1968, after an intensive period of special training, Okinawa recovered the unmanned Apollo 6



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space capsule 380 miles north of Kauai, Hawaii / In 1970 Okinawa was awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for her humanitarian assistance to the people of Lagonoy Gulf, Republic of the Philippines, who had been devastated by Typhoon Jean in October 1970 / On 7 August 1971, Okinawa was the recovery ship for the Apollo 15 spacecraft and crew of the fourth crewed Apollo program lunar landing mission / In April 1975, Okinawa participated in Operation Eagle Pull, the evacuation of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, Vietnam / From 7 October 1987 to 7 April 1988, Okinawa was deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of mine sweeping operations / Okinawa was the command ship of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in August 1990 as part of a WestPac deployment when it was diverted to the Persian Gulf in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm / Helicopters were launched as a diversion during the start of the ground phase of the war / The Okinawa was decommissioned on 17 December 1992 and was sunk as a target in a COMSUBPAC ship sinking exercise (SINKEX) on 6 June 2002, off the coast of Southern California

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WATKINS**

**GEORGE**

**P.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1956

**Year Discharged:** 1960

**Unit / Squadron:**

VMT-1, 2ND MARINE AIR WING, MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal George P. Watkins served as a Jet Aircraft Mechanic with the 2nd Marine Air Wing

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina - MCAS Cherry Point is a United States Marine Corps airfield located in Havelock, North Carolina, in the eastern part of the state / Cherry Point was built in 1941, and was commissioned in 1942 and is currently home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing / Cherry Point's primary World War II mission was to train units and individual Marines for service to the Pacific theater / The air station also served as a base for anti-submarine operations, with an Army Air Corps (22d Antisubmarine Squadron) and later a Navy squadron each being responsible for the sinking of a German U-boat just off the North Carolina coast during 1943 / Cherry Point's contribution to the Korean War effort was to provide a steady stream of trained aviators and air crewmen as well as maintenance and support personnel as replacements to forward deployed aviation units / During the Vietnam War, Cherry Point deployed three A-6 Intruder squadrons to the Far East and again provided a constant source of replacements for aircrews and enlisted aviation personnel / The air station and its associated support locations occupy more than 29,000 acres / Its runway system is large enough that the air station served as an alternate emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle launches out of Cape Canaveral, Florida

**Miscellaneous:**

George Watkins was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marines on 4 November 1960 / George P. Watkins passed away on 8 January 2018

The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (2nd MAW) is the major east coast aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps and is headquartered in Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina / The Wing provides the aviation



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

combat element for the II Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of the 2nd MAW is to conduct air operations in support of the Marine forces to include Offensive air support, anti air warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance, electronic warfare, and control of aircraft and missiles / As a collateral function, the MAW may participate as an integral component of naval aviation in the execution of such other Navy functions as the Fleet Commander may direct / During the Vietnam War, 2nd MAW supplied combat-ready units and personnel to operations in the Asian Theater / The VMT-1 (Marine Corps Torpedo Squadron) squadron has trained Marines on a variety of aviation platforms, but was officially tasked with the mission of training Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier pilots



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WEAVER**

**JOSEPH**

**H.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Weaver was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corp on 30 November 1973 / Joseph H. Weaver passed away on 24 January 2018





# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WEIDNER**

**ALBERT**

**J.**

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-7

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1983

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "B", 2ND BATTALION, 34TH ARMOR

HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BATTALION, 64TH ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (2)

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/50 DEVICE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/6 SERVICE STARS

4 OVERSEAS BARS

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant First-Class Albert Joseph served as an Armor Crewman and as an Infantry Sergeant / SSgt Weidner was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for bravery under combat conditions

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Carson, Colorado - Fort Carson is a United States Army post located directly south of Colorado Springs in El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, and Huerfano counties, Colorado / Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / The 89th Infantry Division was the first major unit to be activated at Camp Carson / During World War II, over 100,000 soldiers trained at Camp Carson. Along with three other infantry divisions: the 71st Infantry Division, 104th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division / More than 125 units were activated at Camp Carson and more than 100 others were transferred to the mountain post from other installations / Camp Carson was designated Fort Carson in 1954 / In the 1960s, mechanized units were assigned to the fort and it was expanded to the 137,000 acres / Throughout its history Fort Carson has been used for large force-on-force maneuver training / Comprehensive maneuver and live fire training also occurs downrange at Fort Carson / Exercises and deployments continually hone the skills of Fort Carson soldiers / In 2003, most Fort Carson units were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom / Troops from the 984th Military Police CO, 759th Military Police Battalion were also sent in support of the guard



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mission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba

## *Miscellaneous:*

Albert J. Weidner retired from the U.S. Army after 17 years of active duty / Weidner was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

On 1 October 1963, the 306th Tank Battalion was designated the 2nd Battalion 34th Armor and was officially activated at Fort Irwin, California, as part of the 4th Infantry Division / On 3 August 1966 the battalion was alerted for movement to the Republic of South Vietnam / Arriving at Vung Tau on 10 September 1966 with their M48A3 Patton Tanks, the battalion began conducting limited operations with the 173d Airborne and 1st Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion 34th Armor was known as the "DREADNAUGHTS", meaning they could do the impossible and feared nothing / While under operational control of the 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor was conducting search and destroy operations in the II Field Force Area / In 1967 the Battalion began to participate in larger combined arms operations / Operation Junction City, which began in the early part of March 1967, saw 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor conducting search and destroy operations as part of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force / On 21 March 1967, the battalion distinguished itself in combat near the village of Soui Tre / Fire Support Base Gold, established only two days prior, had come under attack from the 272d Viet Cong Main Force Regiment consisting of over 1100 soldiers / In a four hour battle in which the "Dreadnaughts" helped turn an enemy victory into a defeat, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor received its second Presidential Unit Citation / From 1 August 1967 to 20 August 1967, it earned the Valorous Unit Award for being involved in fierce fighting against well-fortified and prepared Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regulars in the Quang Ngai Province

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone

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

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

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



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

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

A Unit Citation is a formal, honorary mention by high authority of a military unit's specific and outstanding performance, notably in battle / Similar mentions can also be made for individual soldiers / Alternatively or concurrently, the unit can be awarded an honorary title, a mention on the flag or a decoration



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WEINERT**

**RICHARD**

**W.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **AIR FORCE**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Weinert attended and graduated from Kent State University in Ohio where he played for the Kent State Football Team / Weinert was the President of Terrabind International, a road stabilization company / Richard Weinert was the Founder and Coach of the State Champion Soccer Club (Germania Harriers) / Richard W. "Dick" Weinert passed away on 10 March 2023 at the age of 76 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WEISENBURG**

**LEON**

**R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**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:**

Lance Corporal

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WEISS

ROGER

C.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**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:**

Roger C. Weiss was stationed in Germany with the United States Army from 1967 through 1969

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger Weiss graduated from Kensington High School in 1964 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Weiss attended and graduated from Hilbert College and Niagara University / Roger Weiss was employed by Joy Manufacturing Company (Cameron) for 40 years / Weiss broadcast local high school games on the radio / Weiss was a volunteer with Friends of Fair for 12 years, World University Games, Wing Fest Judge and a Hospice Volunteer / Weiss received the Alan Wilson Media Award in 2022 from the Buffalo News / Roger C. Weiss passed away on 15 April 2023





# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WERTZ**

**HOWARD**

**C.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1959

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS COLONIAL (LSD-18)

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Howard C. "Howie" Wertz served as an Electrician's Mate on the USS Colonial

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Howard Wertz was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 30 October 1963 / Howard C. "Howie" Wertz passed away on 29 November 2019

A dock landing ship (also called Landing Ship, Dock or LSD) is an amphibious warfare ship with a well dock to transport and launch landing craft and amphibious vehicles. A ship with a well deck (docking well) can transfer cargo to landing craft in rougher seas than a ship that has to use cranes or a stern ramp

USS Colonial (LSD-18) was a Casa Grande-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy, named in honor of the Colonial National Historical Park, which comprises Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown in southeastern Virginia / Colonial was commissioned on 15 May 1945 / From 1946 through late 1950, the Colonial participated in amphibious training out of Norfolk, conducting local, east coast, and Caribbean operations, and voyaging from Cuba and Puerto Rico as far north as Newfoundland / During the Korean War, the Colonial landed men and tanks of the 1st Marine Division at Inchon in September, and troops and equipment at Wonsan and Iwon in December 1950 / Colonial was one of the last ships to leave Hungnam in the evacuation of that area / From the close of the Korean War into 1960, Colonial continued to alternate local operations and training out of San Diego with periodic deployments to the Far East / Colonial served in several campaigns in the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1968 / The Colonial was decommissioned in 1970 at the Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility, Vallejo,



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California, and laid up in the Pacific Reserve Fleet, Mare Island / She was struck from the Naval Register on 15 October 1976 and sold to China for scrap / The USS Colonial received seven battle stars for Korean War service and six campaign stars for Vietnam War service

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WESP

DEBORAH

**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:**

Deborah Wesp served as a Military Police Officer on an Air Force Base in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WHEELER**  
**RONALD H.**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Ronald H. "Ron" Wheeler served in the US Army for two years, including 18 months in Southeast Asia

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Wheeler graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School in 1964 and graduated from Westminster College in Pennsylvania in 1968 / Ron Wheeler spent most of his career as a Financial Investigator for the Law Enforcement Division of the United States Treasury Department in Rochester, New York / Wheeler also was part of the New York State Attorney General's Office of the Statewide Organized Crime Task Force and the United States Attorney's Office in Western New York / For nine years, Wheeler served as an Intelligence Analyst with the Anti-Terrorism Unit of the United States Attorney General's Office in both Western New York and Northern Virginia / Ron Wheeler also taught in the Hilbert College Economic Crime Investigation Program and was a Certified Football Official for five years with the NCAA Division 1 Football Program / Wheeler served as Kenmore West's High School Alumni Association Treasurer and a member of the Scholarship Foundation / Wheeler was a member of the WNY Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners / Ronald H. "Ron" Wheeler passed away on 27 April 2023 and is interred at Elmwood Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WHELAN**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- ☐ Vietnam Era  
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Whelan was a former resident of Erie, Pennsylvania and Deerfield Beach, Florida / Whelan was a long-time employee of IBM in Erie, Pennsylvania / Whelan was a lifetime member of the American Legion / James Whelan passed away on 10 June 2023 after a brief illness



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIDOMSKI**

**DANIEL**

**A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 3720 SENECA STREET

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

HQ & SVC BTRY, 6TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE,  
AMERICAL DIV, UNITED STATES ARMY REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (USARV)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant Daniel A. Widomski was Killed in Action on 26 February 1969 in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam from wounds suffered in combat

Lt. Widomski attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill and began his tour of duty in South Vietnam in August 1968 where he was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars / Ft. Sill serves as the home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Fires Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / In 1963 the 1st Aerial Artillery Group (Provisional) was organized to test equipping CH-34 helicopters with rocket pods attached to each side. The rockets converted a transport aircraft, an easy target in most combat situations, into a sophisticated flying weapon capable of direct or indirect fires. It was the ancestor to the Cheyenne and Long Bow attack helicopters of today

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel A. Widomski was a graduate of St. Stanislaus Parochial School, Bishop Ryan High School and State University at Buffalo / He enlisted in the Army in August 1966





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First Lieutenant Daniel A. Widomski was 22 years of age at the time of his death

The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery was originally organized on 1 June 1917 in the Regular Army at Douglas, Arizona as Battery F, 11th Field Artillery, later reassigned to the 6th Division / The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on 19 December 1967 as a unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade / From the time of arrival in the Republic of Vietnam the men of the "On Time" 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery took part in six major campaigns / The biggest and most successful operation was Vernon Lake II (2 November 1968 through 28 February 1969). The operation was conducted in an area which preliminary intelligence indicated was a massive VC/NVA resupply and consolidation region / Supporting fire from the guns of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery combined with the efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade made Vernon Lake II the most successful operation ever undertaken in the 11th Brigade area of operation



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIECHEC**

**PHILIP**

**G.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST PLATOON, "B" BATTERY, 7TH BATTALION, 29TH ARTILLERY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) Philip George Wiechec served as an Electronic Instrument Repairman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Philip G. Wiechec was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons that launch munitions far beyond the range and power of infantry firearms / Modern artillery is most obviously distinguished by its long range, firing an explosive shell or rocket and a mobile carriage for firing and transport / Its most important characteristic is the use of indirect fire, whereby the firing equipment is aimed without seeing the target through its sights / Indirect fire emerged at the beginning of the 20th century and was greatly enhanced by the development of predicted fire methods in World War I / However, indirect fire was area fire; it was and is not suitable for destroying point targets; its primary purpose is area suppression / Weapons covered by the term 'modern artillery' include "cannon" artillery (such as howitzer, mortar, and field gun) and rocket artillery / Certain smaller-caliber mortars are more properly designated small arms rather than artillery, albeit indirect-fire small arms / This term also came to include coastal artillery which traditionally defended coastal areas against seaborne attack and controlled the passage of ships / With the advent of powered flight at the start of the 20th century, artillery also included ground-based anti-aircraft batteries

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



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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:** **WIEDER**

**ROBERT**

**A.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E4

**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:**

Corporal

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIERCIOCH**  
**THOMAS G.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- ☐ Vietnam Era  
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas G. Wiercioch passed away on 17 September 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WILCOX**

**CHARLES**

**C.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** WO1

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

190TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY (AHC), 145TH AVIATION BN, 12TH AVIATION GROUP,  
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

187TH ATTACK HELICOPTER COMPANY (AHC)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR VALOR MEDAL (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Warrant Officer First-Class Charles Chester (Chuck) Wilcox served in Vietnam as a Helicopter Pilot (Utility and Light Cargo Single Rotor) / Warrant Officer First-Class Wilcox was Killed In Action from an incident on 7 December 1967 while performing the duty of an Aircraft Commander / WO1 Wilcox was the aircraft commander on a UH-1D "Iroquois" (Huey) helicopter serving with the 190th Attack Helicopter Company (AHC) / Wilcox had been reassigned from the 187th AHC to provide training / Warrant Officer First-Class Charles C. Wilcox was Killed in Action from a gunshot wound while inserting Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers into a hot Landing zone (LZ) near Phu Loi, Binh Duong Province III Corps

WO1 Wilcox had served in the Army for 2 years and had served in Vietnam for 10 months / He was a graduate of the Army's Helicopter Pilot Training Program, trained on Utility and Light Cargo Single Rotor helicopters

WO1 Wilcox had been awarded the Presidential Meritorious Award for flying 25 missions in one week

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Wilcox was a graduate of West Seneca High School / Wilcox attended Buffalo State College prior to his military service / Charles Chester (Chuck) Wilcox was KIA on 7 December 1967 at the age of 22 years old and is



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interred at St. Vincent's Cemetery, North Evans, New York

The 190th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) was assigned to Vietnam in July-August 1967 / In December 1967, the 190th earned 68 Awards for Valor in support 25th ARVN Rangers Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) / The Officers and Men of the 190th Assault Helicopter Company set many records for Safety and Heroism earning the distinction of never having a major aircraft accident and received over 300 Awards for Valor and received the Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 190th Assault Helicopter Company was inactivated on 10 December 1970

Originally constituted 23 September 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 2025th Quartermaster Truck Company, Aviation, the Company was re-designated 18 June 1966 as the 187th Aviation Company and allotted to the Regular Army / The 187th served in Vietnam from 1966 until the Company was Inactivated 14 February 1972

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

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

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

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

The 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 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:** **WILCOX**

**DENNIS**

**J.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis J. Wilcox passed away on 24 January 2023 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WILCOX JR**

**HOWARD**

**E.**

**Hometown:** GETZVILLE

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1994

**Unit / Squadron:**

INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMAND

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (3)

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

ARMY OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (4)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2)

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Colonel Howard E. "Bud" Wilcox, Jr. served our nation for a total of 26 years on active duty in the US Army from 1968-1994 / During his career he held the following Military Specialties: Personnel Programs Management Staff; Personnel Systems Management; Adjutant General, General; Ordnance, General; Operations Research, General; and Community Activities Management / Colonel Wilcox's last duty assignment was with the US Army Information Systems Command

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Howard Wilcox received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 31 May 1994 / Howard E. "Bud" Wilcox, Jr. passed away on 5 November 2023 and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command (USAISEC) mission is to provide Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) systems engineering support that enables the mission command of the Army and joint warfighter worldwide / USAISEC provides engineering and associated support of Information Technology (IT) at Army posts, camps, and stations; interconnection between installations; extension to deployed forces; and subject matter expertise to Program Executive Offices (PEOs)



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The Army Service Ribbon (ASR) is a military award of the United States Army and is awarded to all members of the Regular (Active) Army, and Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve in an active reserve status, for successful completion of initial-entry training, which for officers is considered to be successful completion of their basic/orientation or higher-level course / Enlisted soldiers will be awarded the ribbon upon successful completion of their initial military occupational specialty (MOS)-producing course

An Overseas Service Ribbon is a service military award of the United States military which recognizes those service members who have performed military tours outside the borders of the United States of America / There are different versions of the Overseas Service Ribbons for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard / Both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines receive the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon

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 Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) is an award presented in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces / It is the third-highest award that the Department of Defense issues, and is awarded to those who distinguish themselves though non-combat meritorious service or achievement, in a joint capacity



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WILD**

**ROBERT**

**J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 4th Class Robert J. Wild served as a Radio Teletype Operator for 12 months while stationed in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Wild received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 22 October 1970 / Robert Wild was a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) #2692, American Legion Post 735 and American Legion Post 1626 / Robert J. Wild passed away on 17 October 2017

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

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



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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:* **WILE**

**MARVIN**

**H.**

*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:*

*Service Notes:*

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

Marvin H. Wile passed away on 12 January 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WILLARD**

**ELMER**

**J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Elmer J. Willard served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Elmer J. Willard passed away 10 December 2012 and is interred at the Bath National Cemetery, Bath, New York





# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WILLIAMS**  
**CHARLES**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- ☐ Vietnam Era  
☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD IND, 40TH COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON  
40TH SECURITY POLICE FLIGHT

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class Charles Williams served with the Security Police / Charles Williams transferred to the U.S. Navy where he served as a Surface Ship Sonar Technician, 3rd Class Petty Officer (STG3)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Wilson received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force in February 1971 and his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy in April 1977 / Charles Wilson was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

The 40th Fighter Squadron was started at Selfridge airfield in Michigan on 22 December 1939



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIND**  
**GERALD**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**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:**

Gerald "Jerry" Wind served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Wind was a retired Auto Worker / Gerald "Jerry" Wind passed away on 26 April 2023 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIRTH**

**DAVID**

**E.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY C, 8TH MOTOR TRANSPORTATION BATTALION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal David E. "Poncho" Wirth, Sr. served as a Motor Vehicle Operator with the 8th Motor Transportation Battalion

**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:**

David Wirth received his Honorable Discharge from the US Marine Corps on 4 June 1971 / David E. "Poncho" Wirth, Sr. passed away on 24 October 2019

The United States Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) were combined general and special purpose forces within the United States Department of the Navy that were designed in engaging offensive amphibious or expeditionary warfare and defensive maritime employment / During World War II, the Fleet Marine Force had units in the western Pacific assigned to the United States Asiatic Fleet

The mission of the Motor Transportation Battalion was to provide intermediate maintenance support for the motor transport equipment of the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WISNIEWSKI**

**RICHARD**

**M.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH MISSILE BATTALION, 41ST ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 56TH ARTILLERY GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY DRIVER & MECHANIC BADGE

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard M. Wisniewski served 10 months as a Field Artillery Missile Crewman while stationed in West Germany with the US Army Artillery branch

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Wisniewski received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 2 February 1965 / Richard M Wisniewski passed away on 6 February 2023

The 4th Missile Battalion, 41st Artillery Regiment was activated on 14 January 1963 per General Order 428 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, with four Pershing 1 missiles / The battalion began training and completed live fires at Fort Wingate, New Mexico / The battalion and equipment shipped aboard the USAT General Simon B. Buckner on 3 April 1964 bound for West Germany / The unit deployed to Schwäbisch Gmünd under the 56th Artillery Group and was garrisoned on Hardt and Bismark Kasernes / The battalion increased to six launchers in 1964 and to eight launchers in 1965 / The battalion exchanged the Pershing 1 missiles for 36 Pershing 1a missiles in 1969 / The battalion was inactivated on 29 September 1972 by General Order 1033 and reflagged as the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment

The Driver and Mechanic Badge is a military special skill badge of the United States Army which was first created in July 1942 / The badge is awarded to drivers, mechanics, and special equipment operators to denote the



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attainment of a high degree of skill in the operation and maintenance of motor vehicles / The badge was originally referred to as the "Motor Vehicle Badge" and adopted its current title of Driver and Mechanic Badge during the Korean War / The Driver and Mechanic Badge is awarded to soldiers who have received training and have met specific qualification standards to operate or repair military motor vehicles / The Driver and Mechanic Badge for wheeled vehicles requires successful completion of military vehicle operations and maintenance training and be assigned duties and responsibilities as a driver or assistant driver of government vehicles for a minimum of 12 consecutive months or have driven at least 8,000 miles with no vehicle accidents or traffic violations before one can be awarded the badge

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

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

The 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:** **WISNIEWSKI**

**THOMAS**

**R.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

☒ **Vietnam Era**

☐ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY D, 93RD SIGNAL BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 4th Class Thomas R. Wisniewski served as a Radio Relay and Carrier Operator and was stationed in Germany for 18 months

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas R. Wisniewski received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 14 April 1965 / Thomas R. Wisniewski passed away on 30 September 2017

The 93rd Signal Brigade is a unit of the United States Army which was active sporadically from 1941 to the present / Its mission has been to deploy, install, operate, and maintain a global tactical theater communications package, while supporting joint and combined operations / During World War II, the 93rd participated in the battles for Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe / The 93rd also served in Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait; Cease-Fire / The 93rd Signal Brigade was deactivated on 23 April 2007, and replaced by the 35th Signal Brigade / The Brigade was reactivated at Fort Eustis, Virginia on 16 July 2008 to support the 7th Signal Command (Theater)

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:** WITTMAYER

DENNIS

G.

**Hometown:** BOSTON

**Address:**

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

21ST ENGINEER COMPANY, OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (OCE)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS BAR

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: RIFLE

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 5th Class Dennis G. Wittmeyer served as a Map Compiler

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis Wittmeyer was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 9 November 1967 / Dennis G. Wittmeyer passed away on 7 April 2022 at the age of 77 years old

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works / The corps' mission is to "deliver vital public and military engineering services; partnering in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters"



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The 21st Engineer Company was organized 31 December 1861 in the Regular Army at Washington, D.C. from new and existing companies of engineers as a provisional engineer battalion

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WNEK**

**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

FIFTH UNITED STATES ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Michael Wnek served as a Heavy Truck Driver

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Wnek was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

The United States Fifth Army was one of the principal formations of the U.S. Army in the Mediterranean during World War II, and was the first American field army ever to be activated outside of the United States / It was officially activated on 5 January 1943 at Oujda, French Morocco and made responsible for the defense of Algeria and Morocco / The Fifth Army first saw action during the Salerno landings (Operation Avalanche), the assault landings at Salerno, part of the Allied invasion of Italy, in September 1943 / Its role in Italy cost the Fifth Army 109,642 casualties in 602 days of combat, of which 19,475 were killed in action / The Fifth Army headquarters returned to the United States in September 1945 / Fifth Army was inactivated on 2 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts and reactivated on 11 June 1946

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



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WOOD**

**JACK**

**F.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:** **E-4**

**Year Entered:** **1966**

**Year Discharged:** **1969**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE (H&S) COMPANY, SCOLS BATTALION, MARINE CORPS BATTALION**

**Medals / Citations:**

**VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL**

**VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL**

**PURPLE HEART**

**COMBAT ACTION RIBBON**

**NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Jack Frederick Wood served as an Anti-Tank Assault Man and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received in combat action

**Base Assignments:**

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / The camp was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / During World War II, Camp Pendleton training facilities included landing craft school, amphibious tractor school, beach battalion school, amphibious communications school, Naval Construction Battalion Training Center and a medical field service school at the naval hospital at Santa Margarita Ranch / The facility was used as a discharge base for soldiers returning from Europe and Asia after World War II ended in 1945 / Camp Pendleton trained the country's Marine Corps fighting force of approximately 200,000 Marines for the Korean and Vietnam Wars

**Miscellaneous:**

Jack F. Wood was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

The Marine Corps Headquarters and Service company includes all command, administration, intelligence,



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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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WOODMAN**  
**WAYNE**

**Hometown:**

**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:**

Wayne Woodman was the past Commander of AMVETS Post #14 and a member of the Sons of the Revolution /  
Wayne Woodman passed away on 10 March 2020





# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WYZYKOWSKI

JOSEPH

R.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

☒ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE 60

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

ARMY INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sp4 Joseph Wyzykowski served in Vietnam from late 1968 to September 1969

**Base Assignments:**

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

Ft. Carson, Colorado - Located near Colorado Springs, Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor / Camp Carson was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / Camp Carson was redesignated as Ft. Carson in 1954 / Fort Carson is the home of the 4th Infantry Division, the 10th Special Forces Group, the 440th Civil Affairs Battalion (USAR), the 71st Ordnance Group (EOD), the 4th Engineer Battalion, the 759th Military Police Battalion, the 10th Combat Support Hospital, the 43rd Sustainment Brigade, the Army Field Support Battalion-Fort Carson, the 423rd Transportation Company (USAR) and the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron of the United States Air Force.

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Wyzykowski attended Burgard High School in Buffalo prior to military service / After an Honorable



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Discharge, Wyzykowski was employed as a Printer / Due to exposure to Agent Orange during his tour in Vietnam, Joseph Wyzykowski is 100% disabled