



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BABBITT**  
**RICHARD**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard Babbitt honorably served in the United States Military / Richard Babbitt was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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**Name:** **BACON**

**THOMAS J.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

96TH SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Thomas J. Bacon honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSGT Thomas Bacon attended the US Intelligence School, Fort Holabird, Maryland and trained as a Security Police Officer / SSGT Thomas Bacon was assigned to the 96th Security Police Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base where he was entrusted with protecting nuclear weapons

Staff Sergeant Thomas Bacon was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 1 November 1973

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Holabird, Maryland - Fort Holabird was located in the southeast corner of Baltimore and northwest of the suburban developments of Dundalk, Maryland / In 1918 Camp Holabird was established on 96 acres of marsh near Colgate Creek, Maryland and was the U.S. Army's first motor transport training center and depot in southeastern Baltimore / The camp was named for Army Quartermaster General and West Point graduate Samuel B. Holabird (1826-1907) / During World War I, Holabird supplied the American Expeditionary Forces in France with Detroit-made vehicles / Thousands of military personnel were trained there to drive and repair automobiles and trucks / From 1941 until the end of World War II, the military installation grew to include approximately 350 acres and 286 buildings / After the Second World War, activities at Fort Holabird were curtailed and portions of the property were transferred from the Army / In 1950 the camp was renamed as Fort Holabird / The U.S. Army Intelligence School and Counter Intelligence Records Facility was based here until transferred to Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 1972 / It was also used as an Armed Forces Examining & Entrance Station (induction facility) / In 1973, Fort Holabird was closed and the area was redeveloped into an industrial park



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Dyess Air Force Base, Texas - Dyess AFB is a United States Air Force (USAF) base located about 7 miles southwest of downtown Abilene, Texas, and 150 miles west of Fort Worth, Texas / Dyess AFB was established in 1942 as Abilene Army Air Base / The base is named after Lt Col William Edwin Dyess, a native of Albany, Texas, who was captured by the Japanese on Bataan in April 1942 / Dyess escaped in April 1943 and fought with guerilla forces on Mindanao until evacuated by submarine in July 1943 / During retraining in the United States, his P-38 Lightning caught fire in flight on 23 December 1943 near Burbank, California / He refused to bail out over a populated area and died in the crash of his P-38 in a vacant lot / Dyess' first active combat unit was the 341st Bombardment Wing, which activated on 1 September 1955 / The 341st was part of the Strategic Air Command (SAC), flying the B-47 Stratojet, which it continued to operate until its inactivation on 25 June 1961 / The host unit at Dyess is the 7th Bomb Wing assigned to the Global Strike Command Eighth Air Force / The wing is one of only two B-1B Lancer strategic bomber wings in the USAF, the other being the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota

## *Miscellaneous:*

Thomas Bacon worked at Ford Stamping Plant in Buffalo N.Y., retiring after 34 dedicated years / Thomas J. Bacon passed away on 1 July 2025 at the age of 75 years old

Military Air Police perform law enforcement duties on Air Force installations or operations under combat conditions / Its focus is on ensuring that Air Force values are upheld, laws are enforced and providing security for Air Force personnel and property within the Air Force training environment

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BADAME**

**PHILIP E.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART (2)

AIR MEDAL (4)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Philip E. Badame honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Philip Badame was deployed to Vietnam and participated in five separate combat campaigns including the TET Offensive in 1968 / Captain Badame was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor under fire and awarded two Purple Hear Medals for wounds suffered in combat

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Philip Badame spent many years in the Real Estate field, and owned the music club "Nashville North" in Tonawanda, hosting Country Music stars such as Johnny Cash, Crystal Gayle and Pat Boone / Philip E. Badame passed away on 3 October 2025 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

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

The 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



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case posthumously

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAERWALT**  
**MICHAEL W.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael W. Baerwalt honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Baerwalt had a career with the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority / Michael W. Baerwalt passed away on 11 February 2025 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAETZOLD**

**JEFFREY L.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Jeffrey L. Baetzhold honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jeffrey L. Baetzhold passed away on 14 November 2024 at the age of 83 years old

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**Name:** **BAGER**

**JOHN J.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

205TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (GRENADE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class John Joseph Bager honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Bager was deployed to Europe for 29 months with Military Intelligence as an Image Interpreter

John Bager received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 18 September 1974

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Joseph Bager passed away in 2017

An Army Image Interpreter supervises intelligence surveillance, collection, analysis, processing, and distribution activities at group, division, corps, Army, and comparable or higher echelons; supervises activities pertaining to organization and training of tactical and technical operations; supervises intelligence, operations and training; coordinates operating requirements of subordinate units with major supported units; supervises intelligence operations in Corps and echelon above corps analysis and control elements; provides advice and makes recommendations to the commander and staff on all matters pertaining to enlisted soldiers and their families

The mission of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade was to rapidly deploy and conduct IEW operations in support of V Corps throughout the full spectrum of military operations / The 205th Military Intelligence Brigade had a proud and distinguished history dating back to World War II / The unit had been in a continuous active service since 1944 / The 205th Military Intelligence Brigade was first constituted on 12 July 1944 in the Army of



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the United States as the 205th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment / The unit was activated on 6 August 1944 in France and served during World War II in Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe / The 205th was deployed to Vietnam and participated in 8 campaigns: Counteroffensive Phase II, Counteroffensive Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase IV, Counteroffensive Phase V, Counteroffensive Phase VI, Tet 69/Counteroffensive, and Summer-Fall 1969 / The 205th Military Intelligence Brigade 'cased its colors' on 21 June 2007 and was inactivated in Wiesbaden, Germany / Its remaining battalions, the 1st and 302nd Military Intelligence Battalions, were reassigned to the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, US Army Europe

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

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:** **BAICH**  
**NICHOLAS**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Nicholas Baich honorably served in the United States Military / Nicholas Baich was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAICH**  
**PAUL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Paul Baich honorably served in the United States Military / Paul Baich was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BAILEY  
CHARLES

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Charles Bailey honorably served in the United States Military / Charles Bailey was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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**Name:** BAILEY

FRANKLIN D.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-7

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1998

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (2 AWARDS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

NYS AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITY AWARD

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD (2 AWARDS)

AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (2 AWARDS)

NYS MEDAL FOR HUMANE SERVICE

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant First-Class Franklin D. Bailey honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces / SFC Franklin Bailey served in the Air Force, Army Reserve and the New York Army National Guard for a total of 36 years of military duty / SFC Bailey served as a Jet Aircraft Mechanic in the Air Force and as a Combat Engineer while in the Army

Sergeat First-Class Franklin D. Bailey was Honorably Discharged and retired from the New York Army National Guard on 7 June 1998

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscelleaneous:**

Franklin D. Bailey passed away on 2 June 2022 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

A Combat Engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker



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construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government

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

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The New York Aid to Civil Authority Medal is an award of the State of New York given to the New York State Organized Militia / The New York Aid to Civil Authority Ribbon is awarded any member of the New York Organized Militia who performs any period of state active duty / For each succeeding award, a medal device (shield) will be attached to the suspension ribbon and service ribbon / These devices shall be: Silver (to represent one additional award) gold (to represent five additional awards)

Established on 19 April 1979, the New York State Medal for Humane Service is awarded to individuals of the New York State Organized Militia who distinguished themselves by sustained meritorious service in a humane operation as a result of a natural disaster, such as floods, snow storms, hurricanes, tornados, and acts of mercy / Service must be in response to an order to State Active Duty by the Governor of the State of New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAINBRIDGE**  
**GARY**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**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:**

Gary Bainbridge honorably served in the United States Army as a Tank Engine Mechanic

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Bainbridge was born in North Tonawanda and raised in Amherst / Bainbridge graduated from Sweet Home School in 1960 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Bainbridge received his Associate's Degree from Erie County Technical Institute (later renamed Erie Community College) / Gary Bainbridge became Vice President of Operation at McGard LLC in Orchard Park, transforming the company from a small Buffalo plant into a successful international company / After retiring in 2001, Bainbridge volunteered his expertise at Roswell Park Cancer Center / Bainbridge moved to Boerne, Texas / Gary Bainbridge passed away on 16 November 2024 at the age of 82 years old after a long battle with dementia



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**Name:** **BAJ**

**ARTHUR J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Arthur J. Baj honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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**Name:** **BAKOWSKI**  
**ROBERT**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert Bakowski honorably served in the United States Military / Robert Bakowski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BALCARCZYK**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

James Balcarczyk honorably served in the United States Military / James Balcarczyk was deployed to Vietnam

**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:** **BALDAUF**

**ALWIN**

**M.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP3

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

9TH RECON COMPANY 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL (GERMANY)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Third-Class Alwin M. Baldauf honorably served in the United States Army and the United States Army Reserve / SP3 Baldauf joined the Army Reserve from 1954 to 1961 and served in active duty for 11 months and seven days during 1955 and 1956 / SP3 Alwin Baldauf was stationed in Illesheim, Germany where he was deployed as an armored tank operator with the Army's 9th Reconnaissance Company

SP3 Alwin Baldauf received his Honorable Discharge in October 1961

**Base Assignments:**

Storck Barracks/Illesheim Kaserne is a United States Army facility adjacent to Illesheim, Germany, located about 15 miles northwest of Ansbach (Bavaria), about 240 miles south-southwest of Berlin / Storck Barracks is part of the United States Army Garrison (USAG) Franconia / It is named after Colonel Louis J. Storck, who served as Executive Officer for the 4th Armored Division, Commander of Combat Command A and the 37th Armor Regiment, and S-3 and Commander of the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion in World War II / Colonel Storck was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for his gallantry in action near Raids, France from July 17 to 25, 1944 / It is the home of the 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, and the 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, both equipped with the Boeing AH-64 Apache; D Co 412th Aviation Support Battalion (all units part of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade) and the 3rd of the 58th Airfield Operations Battalion (AOB) / Fliegerhorst Illesheim was built by the German Luftwaffe beginning in 1934, with construction completing in 1936 / This construction was in conjunction with the Hohenfels Maneuver Training Area (MTA) and in violation of post-World War I agreements / In 1936, the airfield went into operation as a supply, maintenance and repair facility for the Luftwaffe / The Castle Berlichingen in Illesheim was used for the Headquarters / Illesheim Airfield was only



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lightly damaged during World War II by Allied air attacks, and on 13 April 1945 elements of the United States Army 101st Cavalry Group moved into the village and airfield unopposed by the retreating Wehrmacht / The USAAF IX Engineering Command 819th and 831st Engineering Aviation Brigades moved in on 16 April 1945 to repair operational facilities and clear unexploded mines and other dangerous munitions from the field / On 17 April the airfield was declared operationally ready for transport use, being designated as Advanced Landing Ground "R-10 Illsheim" / In May 1947, the Air Force units began moving out of Illsheim, the facility being turned over to Army units who used the airfield as a garrison post as part of the American Zone of Occupation, renaming the facility Storck Barracks / Storck Barracks/Illsheim Kaserne has been a major Army garrison for over 70 years, being a key NATO post in the defense of Western Europe during the Cold War, and today, as part of the continuing U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) mission in Europe

### *Miscellaneous:*

Alwin Baldauf was born in Offingen, Germany on 15 June 1931 and came to America when he was a teenager / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Baldauf found employment at Barcolo in Buffalo's First Ward and then at Trico's Buffalo Washington and Elk Street plants / After getting laid off from Trico, in 1958, he landed a job with MOOG in Elma / Starting in the maintenance department, Baldauf became a machinist in MOOG's model shop / He spent the next 35 years at Moog, specializing in the creation of prototype devices necessary in countless aeronautical projects, including NASA's moon and space shuttle missions / Baldauf was also a musician, playing drums, mandolin, and accordion in several different German bands, such as The Happy Wanderers, The Sauerkrauts, The Edelweiss Trio, and the German American Musicians / Alwin M. Baldauf passed away on 21 April 2024 at the age of 92 years old

The 9th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Reliables") is an inactive infantry division of the United States Army / It was created as the 9th Division during World War I, but never deployed overseas / In later years it was an important unit of the U.S. Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The 9th Division was reactivated on 1 February 1966, and arrived in South Vietnam on 16 December 1966 from Fort Riley, Kansas / On deployment the division was assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam where it commenced operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-31 May 1967) in Operation Palm Beach / Its area of operations was in the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta from 1967 to 1972 / Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled Delta, the Division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program / The Division's major units departed from South Vietnam on 27 August 1969 (HHC & 1st Brigade) to Hawaii; 27 August 1969 (2nd Brigade) to Fort Lewis, Washington; 12 October 1970 (3rd Brigade) to Fort Lewis / It was also activated as a peacetime readiness unit from 1947 to 1962 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and from 1972 to 1991 as an active-duty infantry division at Fort Lewis, Washington / The division was deactivated in December 1991

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The Army of Occupation Medal is a military award of the United States military which was established by the United States War Department on 5 April 1946 / The medal was created in the aftermath of the Second World War to recognize those who had performed occupation service in either Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan or Korea / The first medal was presented to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had been the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force Commander during World War II / Because of the legal status of West Berlin as an occupied territory, the Army of Occupation Medal was issued for forty-five years until the unification of Germany in 1990, making it one of the longest active military awards of both the Second World War and the Cold War / To be awarded the Army of Occupation Medal, a service member was required to have performed at least thirty consecutive days of military duty within a designated geographical area of military occupation

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BALDWIN**

**MICHAEL J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

TRP "C", 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (HAND GRENADE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) Michael John Baldwin honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Michael Baldwin was deployed to Vietnam as a Radio Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael J. Baldwin was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The Field Radio Operator is skilled in the long list of radios for all frequency ranges and uses / The radios used are divided among the frequency range as well as for their specific uses / The Radioman will not be an infantryman or a tanker, but if assigned to those units, he will be fighting side by side with the members of those combat units and carrying a radio or operating the vehicle-mounted radio / Some select radiomen will get assigned to go out with the infantry companies and will be responsible for the communications in that company / However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BALEN**

**MARK**

**L.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Mark L. Balen honorably served in the United States Army Reserve / Mark Balen was a commissioned officer

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Mark Balen graduated from Lackawanna High School in 1952, where he was a Niagara Frontier basketball all-star / Balen graduated from Niagara University and later received his Master's Degree in Education from Canisius College / Mark Balen taught business classes in Lackawanna and coached Varsity Basketball at Baker Victor and Lackawanna High School / Balen was elected Councilman of Lackawanna's Third Ward in 1963 and later became the Council President / Mark Balen was elected the mayor of Lackawanna in 1967, serving four years / In December 1975, Balen was named Acting Lackawanna School Superintendent / Balen later served as an Assistant Principal at Seneca Vocational High School and then as Principal at Kensington High School / After two years at Burgard Vocational, Mark Balen returned to Seneca Vocational in 1992 / in 1997, Balen was elected to an unexpired term on the Lackawanna School Board / Mark Balen administered Teacher Certification Exams for National Evaluation Systems, before moving to Michigan / Mark L. Balen passed away on 25 August 2024 at the age of 89 years old

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BALK**

**THOMAS**

**W.**

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Thomas W. Balk honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Balk was a Buffalo Police Officer and served at Tonawanda High School for 17 years as a Security Guard / Balk was an Instructor at the Police Academy / Thomas Balk was a former President of the Tonawanda Board of Education / Thomas W. Balk passed away on 27 September 2024 at the age of 75 years old

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BANKO III**

**STEPHEN T.**

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

7TH CAVALRY

**Medals / Citations:**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

SILVER STAR MEDAL (2)

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (4)

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART (4)

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Stephen T. Banko III honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Stephen Banko was assigned to the Infantry and deployed to Vietnam for two tours of duty

At 21 years old, Sergeant Banko arrived in Vietnam on 20 January 1968 / Before the 1968 Tet Offensive, the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong attacked everywhere in the country from the demilitarized zone to the delta /

During a fire fight, Bank sustained his first battle wound on 8 February 1968, hit in the right calf with a bullet that remains there to this day / Three times more in 1968, SGT Stephen Banko would suffer battle wounds, two in firefights and one from a punji stick, a sharpened bamboo stake dipped in feces / By December 1968, SGT Banko was serving with the 7th Cavalry, which dates back to General George Armstrong Custer, who lost his life at Little Bighorn / On the morning of 3 December, 1968, Banko awoke to what would be the biggest battle of the year in Vietnam / With 125 men assigned to the rifle company, every man was killed or wounded during the course of the 5 1/2 hours fire fight / Stephen Banko was wounded twice, first at 11:00 in the morning, breaking his right leg; and at 2:00 in the afternoon, getting wounded three inches away from his right knee cap / In between, SGT Banko was hit three times with multiple shrapnel and lost all of his fingernails on both hands / A fellow wounded soldier was set on fire and SGT Banko put out the fire causing third-degree burns on both hands / After sustaining the first bullet wound, an enemy rocket struck the anthill where Banko had sought cover / The rocket blew the barrel off the machine gun he was using / Another soldier, John Holcomb (Oregon) ran 50 yards to bring Banko another machine gun / The soldier was struck four times and died behind that



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anthill / John Holcomb was honored posthumously with the top military honor, the Medal of Honor

During the Tet Offense in July 1968, Sergeant Stephen Banko and his squad were on patrol duty in the rice paddies near the base / It was Stephen Banko's 22nd birthday / SGT Banko and his squad confronted several Viet Cong attackers / Banko managed to shoot one of the enemy and using hand grenades, killed three more Viet Cong but was grazed by a bullet

Sergeant Stephen T. Banko III was awarded four Purple Hearts for wounds suffered during combat operations / His decorations for heroism include two Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars, the Air Medal and four Purple Hearts

Sergeant Stephen T. Banko III is the most decorated Vietnam veteran in Western New York

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Stephen Banko accepted a basketball scholarship at the University at Buffalo from 1964 - 1965 / Banko then took a job as a longshoreman on the Buffalo waterfront for several months and attended St. Bonaventure University in 1965 - 1966 for Journalism / At St. Bonaventure, Stephen Banko was enrolled in the ROTC training program for two years / In 1970, Stephen Banko enrolled in the University of Buffalo, receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English in 1973 / In 1994, Stephen Banko went to work for the administration of Buffalo Mayor, Anthony Masiello as the Director of Communications for the City of Buffalo, New York / Banko left the Buffalo Mayor's office in 1996 and in 1998, became the Field Office Director at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Buffalo, New York

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action / The 1st Air Cavalry refers to the 1st Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army, which was the first Airmobile Division / This division is known for its air assault infantry capabilities and has a rich history, including significant operations during the Iraq War, where Apache Longbows from the division engaged in battles against Iraq's Republican Guard / The division continues to provide scalable combat-ready forces and is capable of conducting operations globally / Recently, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade conducted a change of command ceremony, highlighting its ongoing operational relevance

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry



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Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) is the United States Army's second highest military decoration for soldiers who display extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force / Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations, but which do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor / The Distinguished Service Cross is only awarded for actions in combat / The Army Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Naval Services' Navy Cross, the Air and Space Forces' Air Force Cross, and the Coast Guard Cross. Prior to the creation of the Air Force Cross in 1960, airmen were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross

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

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 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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARAJAS**  
**LAZARO**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lazaro Barajas honorably served in the United States Military / Lazaro Barajas was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARBARINO**

**ROSS T.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

99TH FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON (FMS)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Ross T. Barbarino honorably served in the United States Air Force SGT Ross Barbarino was assigned as a Reciprocating Engine Mechanic, stationed at Nha Trang Air Base in South Vietnam for 12 months

**Base Assignments:**

Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts - Westover Air Reserve Base is an Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) installation located in the Massachusetts communities of Chicopee and Ludlow, near the city of Springfield, Massachusetts / Established at the outset of World War II, today Westover is the largest Air Force Reserve base in the United States, home to approximately 5,500 military and civilian personnel, and covering 2500 acres / Constructed in anticipation of World War II, the installation was named for Major General Oscar Westover who was commanding officer of the Army Air Corps in the 1930s

Nha Trang Air Base, South Vietnam - Nha Trang Air Base (also known as Camp McDermott Airfield) was a United States Air Force (USAF) military airfield used during the Vietnam War / It was located on the southern edge of Nha Trang in Khánh Hòa Province / In May 1953, USAF crews delivered 6 Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcars to Nha Trang, these were then flown by Civil Air Transport crews to Cat Bi Air Base / From 1967 the 571st Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) and the 254th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) both with UH-1Ds were deployed at Nha Trang / In February 1964, three Fairchild C-123B Providers and three air commando C-47s were kept at Nha Trang to support operations of the 5th Special Forces Group which had its headquarters at Nha Trang / These aircraft supported remote Special Forces bases, delivering 1,500 tons of supplies per month / In late November 1965, the 5th Air Commando Squadron equipped with four C-47s and 17 Helio U-10 Super Couriers was formed at the base and then dispersed to forward operating bases throughout central South



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Vietnam / In January 1966, the A-1 equipped 602nd Air Commando Squadron moved to Nha Trang from Bien Hoa Air Base / The 14th Air Commando Wing was activated at Nha Trang on 8 March 1966 and would be the host unit at the base until 15 October 1969 when it moved to Phan Rang Air Base / In mid-1969, as part of the process of Vietnamization, USAF units at Nha Trang began to relocate or inactivate and by October 1969 all USAF units had left the base and only 800 USAF personnel remained there to support operations until the handover of the base to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) in 1970

## *Miscellaneous:*

Ross Barbarino received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force on 7 April 1970 / Ross T. Barbarino passed away on 15 July 2020 at the age of 72 years old

Reciprocating Engine Mechanics are responsible for maintaining and repairing aircraft engines that operate using reciprocating (piston-driven) technology / Mechanics work on engines such as those found in propeller-driven aircraft / Their tasks include troubleshooting, diagnosing issues, performing inspections, and ensuring engines are in optimal condition

The 99th Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS) consisted of engines, hydraulics, electrical, and environmental technicians / Maintenance worked both back shop and were dispatched out to the line when needed

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARNHARD**

**RONALD F.**

**Hometown:** ALDEN

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1958

**Year Discharged:** 1960

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ronald F. Barnhard honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Barnhard was a former Assistant Fire Chief for the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company / Ronald F. Barnhard passed asway on 2 August 2024 at the age of 88 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARONE, JR.**  
**VINCENT**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Vincent Barone, Jr. honorably served in the United States Military / Vincent Barone, Jr. was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARREN**

**MICHAEL J.**

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Michael J. Barren honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Michael Barren was a self-employed carpenter in home remodeling / Michael James Barren passed away on 19 May 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARRICK**

**CONRAD L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 39 WALTERCREST TERRACE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

B BATTERY 3RD MISSILE BATTALION 1ST ARTILLERY

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Conrad Barrick honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Conrad Barrick was assigned as a driver and mechanic during his service years

**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)

Nike Site PI-37, Herminie, Pa - Air Defense site PI-37 was officially activated in 1957 / PI-37 was part of ARAACOM (Army Anti-Aircraft Command), and its designation was B Battery, 1st AAA Msl Bn / B Battery was one of 12 Nike Air Defense sites defending Pittsburgh / It was armed with the Nike Ajax, the worlds first operational, guided Surface to Air Missile / This missile carried high explosive warheads and had a range of around 30 miles with a ceiling of 70,000 feet / Beginning in 1962, the Improved Nike Hercules System with its greater range and accuracy was introduced to B Battery / On 1 September 1971, the 1st Artillery was renamed 1st Air Defense Artillery / The Herminie Nike site was deactivated in mid 1974.

During its operational years, from 1956 to 1974, the Herminie Nike site was manned by an estimated 1,200 Regular Army personnel.

**Miscellaneous:**

Conrad Barrick graduated from West Seneca West High School prior to military service / After his Honorable



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Discharge, Barrick went to work for the Westinghouse Electric Corp in Cheektowaga until 1964 / Conrad Barrick became a correction officer at Wende Correctional Facility until his retirement / Barrick was a member of the West Seneca Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for many years / Conrad L. Barrick passed away at the age of 78 years old on 9 January 2022

The "B" Battery, 3rd Missile Battalion, 1st ADA Regiment was one of the Nike missile batteries that made up the Pittsburgh Air Defense / These batteries were armed with the Nike Ajax, the world's first operational guided Surface-to-Air Missile / The Nike Ajax had a range of around 30 miles and a ceiling of 70,000 feet



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BARRY

DENNIS J.

**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:**

Dennis J. Barry honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis J. Barry passed away on 12 December 2024 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BARRY

THOMAS

C.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** LT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Thomas C. Barry honorably served in the United States Army / Lt. Barry was deployed to Vietnam for nine months in 1968 and served with an Army Intelligence Unit

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Barry was born in Nashua, graduating from Nashua High School in 1960 / Barry earned a Bachelor's Degree magna cum laude in 1964 and completed two Master's Degrees and a Doctorate Degree from Yale University / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Thomas Barry joined the University of Buffalo faculty in 1970 and five years later, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching / While at UB, Barry chaired the Faculty of Arts and Letters Grievance Committees in the early 1970's and was managing editor for "Arethusa", a publication of the Department of Classics / Barry later became the Director of UB's Religious Studies Program / In the 1980's Thomas Barry became Director of Undergraduate Studies and was Chairman of the Classics Department, taking emeritus status in 2014 / Barry moved to New Smyrna Beach, Florida in the 2010's / Thomas C Barry passed away on 27 November 2024 at the age of 82 years old

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARTLETT**

**FREDERICK A.**

**Hometown:** DERBY

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1999

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Frederick A. Bartlett honorably served in the United States Army Air Force / Frederick Bartlett started his stellar military career with the Army National Guard in 1965, then joined the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1999

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frederick Bartlett was the founding father of the Evans Youth Soccer and coached for the Evan Little League Football / Bartlett worked for the Sturgeon Point marina after his retirement / Frederick A. Barlett passed away on 7 January 2024

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARTON, SR.**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Barton, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Barton, Sr. passed away on 2 August 2025

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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:** BARTZ

DONALD

B.

**Hometown:** DERBY

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff-Sergeant Donald B. Bartz honorably served in the United States Air Force as an Airplane Mechanic

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Donald Bartz went to work at the Ford Stamping Plant for 31 years until his retirement / Donald Bruce Bartz passed away on 17 May 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BASHER**

**ROBERT E.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

107TH TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP  
31 AVIONICS MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 2 STARS	REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL	REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS
MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT BADGE (SMALL ARMS)	PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL	GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS	NYS MEDAL FOR MERIT

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert E. Basher honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

107th Air National Guard Base, Niagara Falls, New York - The World War II 339th Fighter Group was redesignated as the 107th Fighter Group, and was allotted to the New York Air National Guard, on 24 May 1946 / It was organized at Niagara Falls Municipal Airport, New York, and was extended federal recognition on 8 December 1948 and activated by the National Guard Bureau /The 107th Fighter Group was bestowed the lineage, history, honors, and colors of the 339th Fighter Group and all predecessor units / It was assigned to the NY Air National Guard 52d Fighter Wing/ In 1992, with the end of the Cold War, the 107th adopted the Air Force Objective Organization plan, and the unit was re-designated as the 107th Fighter Group / With the arrival of the KC-135R Stratotanker in March 1994, the 107th Fighter Wing converted from an air defense to an aerial refueling mission



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

and was re-designated as the 107th Air Refueling Wing / In November 2007, the 107th was notified that it would become an airlift unit / In early 2012, the mission of the 107th began to transition to the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aircraft

Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado - Located near the cities of Aurora and Denver, Lowry Field was named on 11 March 1938 for 2d Lt Francis Lowry, the only Colorado pilot killed in World War I combat / Lowry Air Force Base was designated on 24 June 1948 / Lowry Air Force Base is a former United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) training base during World War II and a United States Air Force (USAF) training base during the Cold War, serving as the initial 1955-1958 site of the U.S. Air Force Academy / The Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center (AFAITC) was established at Lowry on 1 July 1963 with all DOD air intelligence training and advanced training in photographic, radar, and infrared interpretation until moved to Goodfellow AFB, in San Angelo, Texas in 1988 / In 1985 Lowry became the primary training center for USAF space operations until 1991 / Lowry Air Force Base officially closed on 30 September 1994

MacDill Air Force Base, Florida - MacDill Air Force Base, located in south Tampa, was constructed as MacDill Field, a U.S. Army Air Corps, later U.S. Army Air Forces, installation just prior to World War II / The base was named in honor of Colonel Leslie MacDill (1889–1938), a World War I aviator and commander of an aerial gunnery school in the U.S. Army Air Service / Colonel MacDill was killed in a crash of his North American BC-1 on 8 November 1938 at Anacostia, DC / With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as an independent service in September 1947, it became MacDill Air Force Base / During the 1950s and 1960s, it was a Strategic Air Command (SAC) installation for B-47 Stratojet bombers / In the early 1960s, MacDill transitioned to a Tactical Air Command (TAC) installation briefly operating the F-84 Thunderstreak jet fighter before transitioning to the F-4 Phantom II / During the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, MacDill AFB operated F-4 Phantom II fighters under various fighter wings, followed by F-16 Fighting Falcons in the mid- and late 1980s and early 1990s / MacDill AFB is also home to the headquarters for two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: Headquarters, United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), and Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

Tuy Hoa Air Base, Vietnam - Former air force base in Vietnam built by the United States in 1966 and was used by the United States Air Force (USAF) during the Vietnam War in the II Corps Tactical Zone of South Vietnam / On 16 December 1966 the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing became operational at the base until 15 October 1970, when it was transferred to Homestead Air Force Base, Florida / In late 1970, the base was renamed Tuy Hoa Army Airfield and various U.S. Army units, including all army aviation units based at Phú Hiệp Airfield were relocated the Army Airfield / The facility was turned over to South Vietnamese government control on 15 January 1971 / The former Tuy Hoa Air Base was captured by the People's Army of Vietnam in April 1975 and was abandoned for several decades / Today, the site has been redeveloped as Dong Tac Airport

## *Miscellaneous:*

Robert E. Basher graduated from Depew High School prior to his enlistment in the Air Force / Upon receiving his Honorable Discharge, Basher enrolled at Erie County Technical Institute and received his Associate in Applied Science Degree in Electrical Technology / Basher went to work for Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation where he retired after 35 years / Robert Basher currently lives in Elma, New York and is a life member, serving as Vice-Commander and Commander of AMVETS Post #8113 and a long time member of the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Avionics are the electronic systems used on aircraft, artificial satellites, and spacecraft. Avionic systems include communications, navigation, the display and management of multiple systems, and the hundreds of systems that are fitted to aircraft to perform individual functions

The 107th Tactical Fighter Group was initially formed in 1946 as the 107th Fighter Group, consisting of 14 officers and 100 enlisted members / Over the years, the unit operated various fighter aircraft, including the F-47 Thunderbolt, P-51H Mustang, F-4C/D Phantom, and F-16A Falcon / In March 1994, it transitioned to its current mission as the 107th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), flying the KC-135R Strato Tanker / The 107th ARW primarily supports worldwide air refueling missions and can also transport cargo and passengers when needed / Additionally, the unit has a state mission to provide equipment and personnel as directed by the Governor and Division of Military and Naval Affairs / In 2017, it was re-designated as the 107th Attack Wing (ATKW), focusing on operating the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft / The 107th ATKW is based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and plays a crucial role in both federal and state missions

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / 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 Air Force Commendation Medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the armed forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force after March 24, 1958, shall have distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service / The degree of merit must be distinctive, though it need not be unique / Acts of courage which do not involve the voluntary risk of life required for the Airman's Medal may be considered for the Air Force Commendation Medal

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

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 /



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BASTIAN**

**CARL**

**E.**

**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:**

Carl E. Bastian honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carl Bastian was a member of the Free Masons and the Big Timers Club / Carl E. Bastian passed away on 19 March 2025 at the age of 75 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BASTIAN SR

JOSEPH

C.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1961

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Charles Joseph Bastian, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was Honorably Discharged

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Bastian worked for DuPont, Ashland and Marathon Oil for 40 years before his retirement / Charles Joseph Bastian, Sr. passed away on 22 November 2023 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Lancaster, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BATEMAN

NEIL E.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 46 APPLEWOOD ROAD

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SILVER STAR MEDAL               | BRONZE STAR MEDAL        |
| PURPLE HEART                    | VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL    |
| VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL          | COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE |
| MARKSMANSHIP BADGE              | PARACHUTIST BADGE        |
| ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION | VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS  |

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Neil Ellis Bateman was deployed to Vietnam on 8 March 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Neil Bateman was Killed In Action on 15 May 1967 from enemy small gunfire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

PFC Neil Bateman was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Bronze Star Medal Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Neil Bateman graduated from Maryvale Senior High School in 1966 where he excelled in Football and Wrestling / Bateman sang in the choir of St. Stephens Church, Amherst and served as President of its Senior High Fellowship prior to enlisting in the United States Army in August 1966 / Neil Ellis Bateman was 20 years old when he was Killed In Action and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Neil Ellis Bateman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 125



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division and has also been deployed in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965 / In October 1968 the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 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



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combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

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

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

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

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

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

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy /



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Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

Private First-Class Neil Ellis Bateman was also awarded:

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BATEMAN**  
**NEWTON**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PHM2C

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Pharmacist Second-Class Newton Bateman honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam

The brother of Newton Bateman, Army Private First-Class Neil Ellis Bateman, was Killed In Action on 15 May 1967 from enemy small gunfire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Newton Bateman graduated from Maryvale Senior High School in 1960



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BATTLE  
CLIFFORD**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Clifford Battle honorably served in the United States Military / Clifford Battle was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAUER**  
PAUL W.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**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:**

Paul W. Bauer honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Bauer graduated from Canisius High School in 1955 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Bauer became the owner of the Raymond A. Bauer Insurance Agency for 58 years / Paul Bauer was a member of the National Skeet Shooting Association and inducted into the NYS Skeet Shooting Hall of Fame / Bauer was also a lifetime member of the Grand Island Rod & Gun Club and the Niagara River Station Fishing Club / Paul W. Bauer passed away on 13 January 2024 at the age of 85 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAUER**

**WAYNE**

**C.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** MR1

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND (NAVSUBSUPPFAC)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

METITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION W/BRONZE STAR

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY "E" RIBBON

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

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

**Service Notes:**

Machinery Repairman Petty Officer 1st Class (MR1) Wayne Charles Bauer honorably served in the United States / MR1 Wayne Bauer was assigned as a Submarine Repairman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Wayne C. Bauer was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The mission of Naval Supply Systems Command is to conduct and enable supply chain, acquisition, operational logistics and Sailor & family care with mission partners to generate readiness and sustain naval forces worldwide to prevent and decisively win wars / The NAVSUP/Navy Supply Corps team oversees a diverse portfolio including supply chain management for material support to Navy, Marine Corps, joint and coalition partners, supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, security assistance, Sailor & family care, including food service, postal services, retail facilities, and movement of household goods

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

The Navy "E" Ribbon denotes the wearer was on permanent duty aboard a U.S. Navy ship or in a unit that won a battle efficiency competition after July 1, 1974

The Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR)[5] is a service award of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps / The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is granted to any member of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps assigned to a deployable unit (e.g., a ship (including submarines), aircraft squadron, air wing or air group, detachment, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Air Ground Task Force, or other unit type that operates away from its assigned homeport) and is forward-deployed for a period of either 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days each within a given 12-month period; or 6 months stationed overseas in a forward deployed location / When a ship's crew qualifies for the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the ship is authorized to paint and display the ribbon and award stars on the port and starboard side of the bulwark aft to designate the number of deployments conducted throughout the commissioned life of the ship since August 1974

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



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Letter of Commendation is a letter of appreciation issued for exceptional performance of duty above and beyond that which is normally required and expected of an officer or enlisted person



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BAUMAN, JR.

NORMAN

C.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Norman C. Bauman, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Norman C. Bauman, Jr. passed away on 2 January 2014 and is interred at St. Stephen's Cemetery

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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:** BAUMANN, JR.

CLAYTON J.

**Hometown:** DERBY

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1959

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND BRIDGE COMPANY, FLEET MARINE FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Clayton J. Baumann, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Clayton Baumann was assigned as a Combat Engineer and attached to the 2nd Bridge Company, Fleet Marine Force at Camp Lejeune, NC, and had 17 months of foreign service

Corporal Clayton Baumann was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 11 January 1963

**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:**

Clayton J. "Butch" Baumann, Jr. passed away on 1 March 2024 at the age of 82 years old

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces,



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building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

The Fleet Marine Force is a term used by the United States Marine Corps to describe its general population, with an emphasis on forward-deployed units / The United States Fleet Marine Forces are combined general and special-purpose forces within the United States Department of the Navy that perform offensive amphibious or expeditionary warfare and defensive maritime employment / The Fleet Marine Forces make up a reservoir of ground and air organizations, along with specialized enablers from which forces can be drawn to form any size MAGTF or conduct any assigned task / It is headquartered at Naval Station Norfolk and directs and commands all the subordinate elements of the Navy Expeditionary Strike Force and Marine Air-Ground Task Force components

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BAUN

EDWARD J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Edward J. Baun honorably served in the United States Army / Edward Baun was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEALE**

**ROBERT B.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:** 28 IDLEWOOD DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MAG 12, VMA 214

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL (5)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Robert Boughton Beale honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Captain Robert Beale was deployed to Vietnam as a Jet Fighter Pilot and flew both the Marine A-4C Skyhawk and Phantom Jet Fighters for Marine Attack Squadron 214 (Black Sheep) / Captain Beale was Killed In Action on 17 March 1967 when his A-4C aircraft was hit by hostile enemy fire while attacking an enemy sampan / Captain Beale crashed into the China Sea five miles off the shore from Tam Ky, Quang Nam Province and died of injuries to the body

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Beale graduated from Orchard Park Central High School in 1967 / Beale was an Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop #503 and was a member of the National Honor Society / Prior to entering military serve, Beale worked at Arthur's Hardware in Orchard Park / Robert Beale attended and graduated from Hobart College, Geneva in 1961 / Prior to entering the Marine Corp, Robert Beale was employed by the Boeing Aircraft Corporation in Seattle, Washington / Robert Boughton Beale was 28 years old at the time of his passing and is interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Robert Boughton Beale is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 16e, Line 99



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Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) is an active air group of the United States Marine Corps, tasked with providing fighter and assault support aircraft / It is currently part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW), itself an integral part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and based at MCAS Iwakuni in Japan / The mission of Marine Aircraft Group 12, as the tactical air arm of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, is to conduct air reconnaissance, electronic warfare, anti-air warfare, offensive air support, control of aircraft and missiles, and assault support from advanced bases, expeditionary bases or the sea base supported by organic aviation logistics and aviation ground support logistics as required by III MEF and United States Pacific Command and be prepared to conduct such support and engagement operations as may be directed / In May 1965, MAG-12 deployed to Chu Lai, Vietnam, to support Marine infantry and other allied forces in their engagements against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army units / The Group participated in many large operations, including the recapture of Hue City and the relief of besieged units at Khe Sanh / Two more Navy Unit Citations were received as a result of the Group's contribution to the Vietnam War effort / After almost 5 years of combat, MAG-12 was withdrawn from the Republic of Vietnam in February 1970, and reestablished at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan / In May 1972, MAG-12 again deployed to Vietnam and conducted combat operations from Bien Hoa Air Base until finally withdrawing from the war on 29 January 1973 where they were the last American combat aviation unit still in country / MAG-12 then returned to MCAS Iwakuni, where it remains today

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 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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEAMER**

**ROGER J.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART (3)

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

**Service Notes:**

Roger J. Beamer honorably served in the United States Army / Roger Beamer was deployed to Vietnam / Roger Beamer was a three-time recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received on the battlefield

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger J. Beamer passed away on 6 April 2024 at the age of 77 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEAN**

**DE ALTON C.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

De Alton C. Bean honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

De Alton C. Bean passed away on 27 October 2024 at the age of 85 years old

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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:** **BEBACK**

**JOHN**

**L.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** COAST GUARD

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John L. Beback honorably served in the United States Coast Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Beback was retired from the United States Postal Service / John L. Beback passed away on 7 December 2025 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BECHTEL**

**DAVID J.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**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:**

David J. Bechtel honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Bechtel volunteered at the VA Hospital for over 14 years / David J. Bechtel passed away on 21 December 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:** **BECKER**

**BARRY R.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

8TH SPT BATTALION, 196TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEA BAR

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Barry Robert Becker honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Barry Becker was assigned as a Personnel Specialist

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Barry R. Becker was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

The 196th Infantry Brigade arrived on 14 August 1966 at Tây Ninh Combat Base, Vietnam / It began operations almost immediately in the western area of III Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade conducted Operation Cedar Falls, Gadsden, Lancaster, Junction City, Benton, and Attleboro (in War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province) / Attleboro turned into a major action after a large enemy base camp was found on 19 October 1966 / In April 1967, Gen. William Westmoreland ordered the formation of a division sized Army task force to reinforce American forces in I Corps Tactical Zone / The 196th was selected to form a part of the task force / Task Force Oregon became operational on 20 April 1967, when troops from the 196th landed at Chu Lai Base Area in I Corps / Over the next month, it was joined by the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (later redesignated the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division) / In September 1967 Task Force Oregon was redesignated the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) and an official change of colors ceremony was held on 26 October 1967 / Later, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division were replaced by the 198th and 11th Light Infantry Brigades / As part of the 23rd, the 196th participated in Operations Wheeler/Wallowa,



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Golden Fleece, Fayette Canyon, Frederick Hill, Lamar Plain, Elk Canyon I and Elk Canyon II / In early May 1968, the Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiments was flown in to assist other US forces at the Battle of Kham Duc / On 29 November 1971, the 196th became a separate temporary entity to safeguard this same area of operations / An entire company of the 196th was also involved in opposing the war by famously sitting down on the battlefield /

In April 1972, the 196th moved to Da Nang to assist in port security duties / Units of the brigade were rotated through Phu Bai Combat Base to provide base security / The brigade finally left Vietnam on 29 June 1972 as the last combat brigade to leave Vietnam / The 196th served in Vietnam from 15 July 1966 through 29 June 1972 / The brigade suffered 1,188 killed-in-action, and 5,591 wounded-in-action during its service in Vietnam

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BECKER**  
**MATTY**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Matty Becker honorably served in the United States Military / Mattie Becker was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BECKER**

**WILLIAM J.**

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:** 8400 MAIN STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP (CAG)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal William John Becker honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCpl William Becker was deployed to Vietnam on 5 August 1969 and assigned as a Mortarman / During his service in the Vietnam War, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Becker experienced a traumatic event which ultimately resulted in loss of life

LCPL William J. Becker was a mortarman serving with 1st Combined Action Group, Combined Action, III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) / While serving in a line company in Vietnam, LCPL was stricken with illness /He was evacuated to a U.S. military hospital in Japan where he died January 9, 1970, as a result of appendicitis

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William John Becker passed away on 9 January 1970 at the age of 21 years of age and is interred at Forest Avenue Cemetery, Angola, New York

William John Becker is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 16

A Mortarman is a soldier who operates a firing device called a mortar / Mortarmen in the U.S. Marines are the unit that's mainly responsible for the tactical employment of the 60 mm light mortar and the 81 mm medium mortar



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

1st Civil Affairs Group (1st CAG) is a civil affairs (CA) unit of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Pendleton, California / It is one of three civil affairs units in the Marine Corps, all of which are reserve units / 1st CAG tends to support I Marine Expeditionary Force activities / Its mission is to plan and execute civil military operations while serving as the liaison between military forces and civil authorities, the local population and non-governmental organizations / Conduct activities which enhance the relationship between the military and host nation personnel and organizations facilitated through application of civil affairs specialty skills in areas normally the responsibility of civil governments

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

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The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BECKWITH**

**RICHARD E.**

**Hometown:** WOODLAWN

**Address:** 11 SEVENTH STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 26TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, 42ND POSTAL UNIT

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Richard Earl "Dick" Beckwith honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Richard Beckwith was deployed to Vietnam on 13 August 1967 as a Postal Clerk / SGT Beckwith was Killed In Action on 29 February 1968 from enemy mortar during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Sergeant Beckwith was on his second tour of duty in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Beckwith graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1959 / Beckwith worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp, Lackawanna Plant, prior to being drafted in September 1966 / Richard Earl "Dick" Beckwith was 26 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Richard Earl Beckwith is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42e, Line 2

The 1st Logistical Command was constituted 24 August 1950 in the Regular Army / The Command was reorganized and redesignated 2 July 1962 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical Command / No unit was more critical to the buildup of American forces in Vietnam than the 1st Logistical



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Command / Prior to 1965, the U.S. Army in Vietnam was supplied by the Army's Pacific Command through the small U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, which served under the 9th Logistical Command in Okinawa / As a result, the 1st Logistical Command, which had first been activated during the Korean War, was deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Saigon on 1 April 1965 / In mid-1965, the 1st Logistical Command, processed 70,000 tons of incoming material per month / In 1966, 700,000 tons a month was processed, not counting critical items brought in by air / The 1st Logistical Command was redeployed to Fort Hood on 7 December 1970

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

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEDARD**

**ROBERT**

**D.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert D. Bedard honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Bedard was assigned as a Supply Specialist / Bedard also attended Light Weapons Infantry school at Fort Dix, and Drill Sergeant school at Fort Jackson / In addition to serving as a Drill Instructor, Robert Bedard served with the 1st Military Police & POW Command at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Robert Bedard was Honorably Discharged from active duty with the US Army on 15 April 2019

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort George Meade, Maryland - Fort Meade became an active Army installation in 1917 and was named in honor of Major Gen. George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg proved a major factor in turning the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North / Fort Meade was used as a World War II recruit training post / In September 1943, the first shipment of 1,632 Italian and 58 German prisoners arrived at Fort Meade

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert D. Bedard passed away on 14 April 2019 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The United States Army Military Police Corps (USAMPC) is the uniformed law enforcement branch of the United States Army / Investigations are conducted by Military Police Investigators under the Provost Marshal General's Office or Special Agents of the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) / United States Army Military Police units have combat zone responsibilities in addition to their law enforcement duties / These responsibilities include mounted and dismounted patrols, response force operations, area damage control, route reconnaissance, cordon and search operations, critical site security, and convoy and personnel escorts / Operationally, these duties fall under the "security and mobility support" discipline of the Military Police Corps



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEITER**

**ROGER J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 136 WESTCLIFF DRIVE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS.

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Roger J. Beiter honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Roger Beiter died in the crash of an Air Force Military Transport on 25 June 1965

A westbound military flight, utilizing a Boeing C-135A Stratolifter transport (60-0373), originated at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey and was bound for the island of Okinawa, via El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Santa Ana, Orange County, California, and Hickam Air Force Base near Honolulu, Hawaii / Carrying 72 U.S. Marines Corps members and manned by a crew of 12 Air Force servicemen, the aircraft, the military derivative of the four-engine Boeing B707 jetliner, took off at 1:35 a.m. into thick fog and light drizzle from Runway 34R at El Toro / The aircraft had reached an altitude of about 1,000 feet when it failed to make a prescribed left turn and continued on its northward course, smashing into Loma Ridge while flying at an estimated 300 mph / The jet impacted the 1,300-foot hill at a point approximately 150 feet below its crest and disintegrated into flames, scattering wreckage and bodies over a mile-wide portion of the 93,000-acre Irvine Ranch / All 84 persons, including Private First-Class Roger J. Beiter, aboard were killed / Due to the heavy fog and low overcast, the crash site wasn't located by search and rescue members until over four hours after the plane went down / The exact cause of the crash remains undetermined

**Base Assignments:**

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

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Constructed in May 1941, Camp LeJeune is a Marine Corps. amphibious assault training facility located in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The camps is also the home of the Marine Corps



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Expeditionary Forces in Readiness.

## *Miscellaneous:*

Roger Beiter was a graduate of Queen of Heaven School and was enrolled as a Freshman at Canisius College at the time of his enlistment / Rodger J. Beiter passed away on 25 June 1965 at the age of 18 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The Boeing C-135 Stratolifter is a transport aircraft derived from the prototype Boeing 367-80 jet airliner in the early 1950s / It has a narrower fuselage and is shorter than the commercial 707 airliner / Since the first one was built in August 1956, the C-135 and its variants have been a fixture of the United States Air Force / The C-135A had seating for 126 passengers and powered by four J-57-P-59W engines



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BELASIC

DAVID S.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1957

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

David Steven Frank Belasic honorably served in the United States Army / David Belasic served as a Medical Corpsman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Belasic was a graduate of Racine Lutheran High School, Racine, Wisconsin, and Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana / Belasic was a graduate of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (1963), Springfield, Illinois, Whitman College (MA), Spokane, Washington, and earned his Doctor of Ministry from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary / David Belasic served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; staff member and then President of the Eastern District Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in Buffalo, New York, until his retirement in 2000 / David Steven Frank Belasic passed away on 15 June 2025 at the age of 90 years old

Army Medical Corpsman is a military enlisted person trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment / The Medical Corps consists of commissioned medical officers who are physicians / A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment / U.S. Army Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BELL

LEONARD J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 21 NORTH PEARL STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Leonard Jonathen Bell honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Leonard Bell was deployed to Vietnam on 12 April 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Leonard Bell was Killed In Action on 11 May 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Leonard Bell was a graduate of the Park School, Buffalo and attended Canisius College prior to being drafted into the Army in February 1967 / Leonard Jonathen Bell was 20 years old at the time of his death and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Leonard Jonathen Bell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 58e, Line 19

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas



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where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducts military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / After undergoing major reorganizations in 1957 and 1963 to adapt to changing tactics, the division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan / Its present deployment is composed of light infantry and aviation units / Tropic Lightning soldiers regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities

The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment, entered the Vietnam War in January, 1966 / During their five-year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned two valorous unit citations, and was one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The regiment participated in Operation Junction City and fought during the Tet Offensive and the May Offensive / The regiment finally returned to Hawaii in April, 1971 / More recently the regiment deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq

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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high



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

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

The 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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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



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awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

**Name:** **BENEVENTO**

**MICHAEL**

**A.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**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:**

Michael A. Benevento honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael A. Benevento passed away on 29 June 2023 at the age of 75 years old



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**Name:** **BENKELMAN**

**JAMES E.**

**Hometown:** EDEN

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant James E. "Nerve" Benkelman honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Benkelman was a member of the Steamfitters Local Union #22 / Benkelman retired to Florida / James E. "Nerve" Benkelman passed away on 19 February 2024 at the age of 74 years old



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**Name:** **BENNING**

JESSE J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD BATTALION, 8TH MARINE REGIMENT, 2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

**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:**

Lance Corporal Jesse James Benning honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Jesse Benning was deployed to Vietnam for 17 months where he served as an Anti-Tank Assaultman

LCPL Jesse James Benning was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 10 September 1973

**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:**

Jesse James Benning passed away on 13 January 2020 at the age of 67 years old and his body was cremated

An Anti-tank Assaultman was a front-line military job that supported ground infantry and tasked with tankbusting and breaching / In the past, Marine Corps Infantry Assault had been referred to as "grunts" for their hard, grueling work in combat / Assaultman were responsible for anti-armor operations and tactical vehicle operations / These servicemembers provided medium and heavy anti-armor fire in support of the infantry battalionarge from the US Marine Corps on 10 September 1973 / Jesse James Benning passed away on 13



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3rd Battalion 8th Marines (3/8) was an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, consisting of approximately 1,100 Marines and Sailors / The battalion fell under the command of the 8th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / The mission of the Marine Corps rifle squad is to locate, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver and/ or repel enemy assault by fire and close combat / The battalion was activated on 1 November 1940, in San Diego and during World War II the battalion participated in the action at the Battle of Guadalcanal, Battle of Tarawa, Battle of Saipan, Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / Following the surrender of Japan, they re-deployed during September 1945 to Nagasaki, Japan and participated in occupation of Japan from until February 1946 / During the 1960s they participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis from October to December 1962 and Operation Powerpack in the Dominican Republic in 1965

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

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

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



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**Name:** **BENNS**

**HOWARD W.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** **1946**

**Year Discharged:** **1948**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Howard W. "Howie" Bennis honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Howard Bennis started a hydroplane boat racing career in 1957 that spanned 40 years / Bennis won his first national championship in 1968 / Howie went on to win 3 title events in his rookie year, a record that stood for years, and was recognized as "Rookie of the Year" by the Unlimited Racing Commission / In 1988 Howard Bennis was the American, Canadian and World champion / Bennis was also the triple crown winner at Valleyfield, Quebec, taking home the Grand Prix World Championship, as well as the Canadian and American championship titles in the hydroplane "Lebeouf" GP-1001 / Howard Bennis won the 1991 Griffin Cup in New Zealand / Howard Bennis retired at the age of 55 after piloting some of the famous hydroplanes such as the Miss Budweiser, Sudden Seven, Miss Gangway, Lebeouf and Miss Dinomite / Bennis retired to Fort Myers, Florida / Howard W. "Howie" Bennis passed away on 12 March 2018 at the age of 78 years old and his remains cremated



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BENZ**

**DONALD E.**

**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:**

Donald E. Benz honorably served in the United States Army / Drafted into the Army, Donald Benz was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, where he served in a ballistics laboratory conducting research on large ordnance and radar systems

**Base Assignments:**

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland - Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is a U.S. Army facility located adjacent to Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland / APG is the U.S. Army's oldest active proving ground, established on 20 October 1917, six months after the U.S. entered World War I / Its location allowed design and testing of ordnance material to take place near contemporary industrial and shipping centers / The proving ground was created as a successor to the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, which was too small for some of the larger weapons being tested / At the peak of World War II, APG had billeting space for 2,348 officers and 24,189 enlisted personnel

**Miscellaneous:**

Growing up in Kenmore, Donald Benz graduated from Kenmore High School in 1950 and graduated in 1954 from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York / Donald Benz worked on jet engines for General Electric in Schenectady, New York and Orange, New Jersey before getting drafted into the US Army / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Benz joined his family business, Benz Electric Refrigeration Service on Niagara Street, Buffalo / Donald Benz sold the business in 1973 and opened the Niagara Scuba Sports shop on Niagara Street in Buffalo / Benz was a Master Diver and Instructor at the YMCA and his Niagara Scuba Sports shop / Benz was an award winning underwater photographer / In 1985, Donald Benz started one of the area's first fast film developing services, Niagara One-Hour Photo at his diving shop location / Donald Benz also returned as an Engineer at Sherwood Industries in Lockport, New York, which manufactured valves for diving tanks / In 1988, Benz oversaw a workforce of 300 at Sherwood's factory in Wheatfield, New York / Benz was the



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captain of the company's scientific diving team and tested equipment on dives in the Caribbean and the Arctic / After retiring in 2000, Donald Benz turned his garage into a wood shop and designed and built furniture and also build model airplanes / Benz retired to Fort Pierce and Miami, Florida / Donald J. Benz passed away on 14 May 2024 at the age of 92 years old



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**Name:** BENZINGER

ROBERT T.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Robert T. Benzinger honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Benzinger was a member the Cheektowaga Senior Citizens, American Legion F.J. Donovan Post #1626 and Forty&Eight Voiture 51 / Robert T. Benzinger passed away on 16 November 2025 at the age of 83 years old

Forty&Eight Voiture 51 (La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux) (English: "The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses"), commonly known as the Forty and Eight, is a patriotic organization of U.S. veterans headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana / The Forty and Eight was founded in March, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, when World War I veteran Joseph Breen and 15 other members of The American Legion came together and organized it as an honor society for the Legion / They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the Legion / The organization derives its name from the French Army box cars used to transport American soldiers to the western front during World War I / Each car had "40-8" stenciled on the side, which meant that it could carry 40 men or 8 horses / The cars were known as "forty and eights" and viewed by the men as a miserable way to travel / The new organization was thus called the Forty and Eight in an attempt to make light of the common misery they had all shared / In 1959 the Forty and Eight became independent of The American Legion when National Commander Martin B. McKneally discontinued it as an organization within the Legion for having racially discriminatory membership requirements / In 1973 the Forty and Eight modified their membership rules to prohibit discrimination / The organization required its members to also be members of the Legion until 2008 / Membership is by invitation only and open to honorably discharged veterans and active members of the Armed Forces of the United States per a 2008 change to Article IV of the national constitution / Wartime service is not required / From the beginning, the Forty and Eight only allowed men into its ranks, even



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though many women were veterans in their own right and thus, could have been eligible / But that changed at the promenade nationale in 2006, when the majority of delegates present voted to allow women into the ranks for the first time / Although the Forty and Eight is not a secret society, much of the ritual is a secret to non-members / A voyageur can disclose that they belongs to said organization, but not all of what goes on at its meetings / The Forty and Eight meeting is known as a promenade and has its own set ritual / The ceremony to initiate a new member, known as a P.G. for Poor Goof or Prisoner de Gare into the 40 & 8 is known as a "wreck" / Anyone wishing to enter The Forty and Eight must be wrecked, after which the initiate has earned the right to be referred to as a voyageur militair and a full member



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**Name:** **BEREBKO**

**ROBERT R.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

42ND SUPPLY SQUADRON, STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (SMALL ARMS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Robert R. Berekko honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Robert Berekko was assigned as a Fuel Specialist during 10 months of active duty in Vietnam

SGT Robert Berekko received his Honorable Discharge from the US Air Force on 16 November 1973

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Berekko was a member of the Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post #6251 and the Disabled American Veterans Post #203 / Robert R. Berekko passed away on 31 December 2020 at the age of 71 years old

The 42d Air Refueling Squadron is an inactive United States Air Force unit / It was last assigned to the 42d Bombardment Wing at Loring Air Force Base, Maine, where it provided worldwide refueling until it was inactivated on 30 April 1994 / The squadron's earliest predecessor was the 542d Bombardment Squadron, which served as a heavy bomber training unit during World War II and was inactivated in a general reorganization of Army Air Forces training units in 1944 / In 1965, the squadron began to deploy aircraft and aircrew support for Operation Young Tiger operations in Southeast Asia / This support for other units refueling combat operations in Southeast Asia continued until 1975 / The 42d Air Refueling Squadron was inactivated in April 1994 as Loring AFB closed



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

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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**Name:** **BERG**

**CARLTON J.**

**Hometown:** COLLINS

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Carlton J. Berg honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carlton J. Berg passed away on 20 march 2026 at the age of 80 years old

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BERG**

**DANIEL**

**G.**

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

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:

Daniel G. Berg honorably served in the United States Army Reserve

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel G. Berg passed away on 16 November 2019 at the age of 67 years old

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary



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**Name:** **BERGER**

**DONALD J.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:** 1450

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CAPT

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON 13 (MABS-13), MAG-13, 1ST MARINE AIR WING, FMFPAC

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13

**Medals / Citations:**

NAVY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Donald Joseph Berger honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Captain Donald Berger was deployed to Vietnam 27 March 1969 as a Pilot / CAPT Donald Berger died on 28 December 1969 from a non-hostile aircraft crash in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Captain Donald Berger was a Marine pilot serving his third tour in Vietnam / On 28 December 1969, during a flight to checkout the Chu Lai Air Base navigational equipment, the squadron's C-117D aircraft with Captain Berger onboard and piloted by LtCol Douglas Snead, crashed into the side of a mountain about 10 miles southwest of Chu Lai, in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam / All on board died instantly / First reported as missing, the remains of Captain Donald Berger as well as those of Donald Joseph Snead, William Lloyd Bunch, Ronald Francis Liscum and Douglas Lee Snead were recovered on 31 December 1969

Donald Berger joined the Marine Corps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1951 after graduating from Officer Training School in Pensacola, Florida / Berger was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1967 / Berger left the Marine Corps in 1958 to return to Syracuse University and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Forestry / Captain Berger rejoined the Marine Corps and was assigned to Thailand / His second tour was in Vietnam from 1965 - 1966 / Berger started his third tour of Vietnam in March 1967



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Captain Donald Berger was awarded the Navy Cross in 1966 for extraordinary heroism while serving with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 / Captain Berger rescued stranded Green Berets and South Vietnamese soldiers at As Hau and transported them to a safety zone / He then made a "controlled crash" landing when his helicopter was disabled by enemy gunfire and later directed his crew and ground personnel in fighting off enemy troops and returning safely to American lines

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Donald Berger was a 1949 graduate of Amherst Central High School and attended Syracuse University from 1949 - 1951, later returning to college to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Forestry / Donald Joseph Berger was 38 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga

Donald Joseph Berger is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington .DC. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 101

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 (VMM-163) is a United States Marine Corps helicopter squadron consisting of MV-22 Osprey transport tiltrotors / The squadron, known as "Evil Eyes", is based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW) / The mission of VMM-163 is to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations / Be prepared for short-notice, worldwide deployment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations / In late July 1962, HMM-163 deployed to Sóc Trăng Airfield, South Vietnam / During their time in South Vietnam, VMM-163 crews had flown a total of 10,869 hours, 15,200 sorties and had lifted over 25,216 combat assault troops and 59,024 other passengers

Marine Aircraft Group 13 (MAG-13) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma that is currently composed of one McDonnell Douglas AV-8B Harrier II squadron, three Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II squadrons, an unmanned aerial vehicle squadron, a maintenance and logistics squadron, and a wing support squadron / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-13 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force commanders

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

The 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge / Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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

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

Navy personnel who have been attached to a Fleet Marine Force Unit in active combat with an armed enemy beginning with World War II are authorized to wear a 1/8 inch bronze miniature Marine Corps emblem centered on the suspension ribbon of the World War II Area Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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## Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BERMEL**

**WILLIAM D.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "S", SCH BRIGADE, 1ST ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS BAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) William Dallas Bermel honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Wiliam Bermel was deployed to Vietnam as a Clerk

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Bermel was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / William D. Bermel passed away on 18 February 2025 at the age of 80 years old

First Army is the oldest and longest-established field army of the United States Army.[ / It served as a theater army, having seen service in both World War I and World War II, and supplied the US army with soldiers and equipment during the Korean War and the Vietnam War under some of the most famous and distinguished officers of the U.S. Army / It now serves as a mobilization, readiness and training command

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BERNAS**

**DAVID M.**

**Hometown:** BOSTON

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

SUB UNIT #1, 1ST AIR NAVAL GUNFIRE LIAISON COMPANY (ANGLICO)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY-MARINE MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal David M. Bernas honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL David Bernas was deployed to Vietnam as a Field Radio Operator

LCPL David Bernas received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps on 25 February 1971

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Bernas was a life member and Past Chief of the North Boston Volunteer Fire Company and belonged to the Hamburg Kingsmen Drum and Bugle Corps and the Hamburg "K" Drum Corps / David Bernas owned and operated Batteries Express in Boston, New York for many years, retiring in 2010 / David M. Bernas passed away on 15 February 2024 at the age of 75 years old

The Field Radio Operator is skilled in the long list of radios for all frequency ranges and uses / The radios used are divided among the frequency range as well as for their specific uses / The Radioman will not be an infantryman or a tanker, but if assigned to those units, he will be fighting side by side with the members of those combat units and carrying a radio or operating the vehicle-mounted radio / Some select radiomen will get assigned to go out with the infantry companies and will be responsible for the communications in that company / However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) is an airborne fire support and liaison unit of the United States Marine Corps / The mission of ANGLICO is "To provide Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Commanders a liaison capability to plan, coordinate, and conduct terminal control of fires in support of joint, allied, and coalition forces / Per this mission statement, ANGLICOs are not designed to support U.S. Marine Corps maneuver elements / Instead, the doctrinal purpose of ANGLICO is to provide fire support and coordination in support of units adjacent to the MAGTF

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

for the Marine Corps



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BERNAS**

**JAMES R.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** James

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-6

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1978

**Unit / Squadron:**

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON-312, MARINE AIR GROUP-31  
2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS MAST

USMC GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant James R. Bernas honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SSGT James Bernas was assigned as an Aircraft Electrical Systems Technician and worked on the F-4J Phantom II Aircraft / SSGT Bernas was deployed to Vietnam for 3 months

SSGT James Bernas was Honorably Discharged from the US Marine Corps on 21 August 1978

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina - Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort or MCAS Beaufort is a United States Marine Corps air base located 3.1 miles northwest of the central business district of Beaufort, South Carolina / About 4,700 personnel serve at the station, and it is home to four Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet fighter-attack squadrons and two F-35B Lightning II training squadrons / Naval Air Station Beaufort was commissioned on 15 June 1943, for advanced training operations of anti-submarine patrols during World War II / It was deactivated in 1946 and reactivated in 1956 / On March 1, 1960, it was re-designated Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort / The mission of MCAS Beaufort is to provide support as an operational base for MAG-31 and its associated squadrons, Marine Corps support units and tenant Navy strike fighter squadrons

**Miscellaneous:**

James R. Bernas passed away on 9 July 2020 at the age of 68 years old

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 (VMFA-312) is a United States Marine Corps F/A-18C Hornet squadron /



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Also known as the "Checkerboards", the squadron is based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG-31) and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (2nd MAW) / Marine Fighter Squadron 312 (VMF-312) was commissioned on 1 June 1943, at Page Field, Parris Island, South Carolina / VMF-312's first combat action came on 12 April 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa as part of Marine Aircraft Group 33 (MAG-33), when four squadron aircraft intercepted 20 Japanese Zeros and scored eight kills without a loss / VMF-312 continued to operate from Kadena Air Base on Okinawa until the cessation of hostilities / By war's end, the squadron had accounted for 59.5 air combat kills in the Pacific Theater During the Korean War, VMF-312 squadron amassed 4,945 accident-free hours of carrier operations while logging 1,920 carrier landings / During the Vietnam War, the "Checkerboards" performed the vital mission of training combat aircrews prior to their deployment to Southeast Asia

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 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 / During World War II, the 2nd MAW contributed to 83 South Pacific combat operations / Marines and aircraft from 2nd MAW participated in major battles or campaigns at Wake Island, Guadalcanal, Midway, Saipan, Tinian, Guam and Okinawa / During the Vietnam War, 2nd MAW supplied combat-ready units and personnel to operations in the Asian Theater

The Meritorious Mast is a formal and ceremonial acknowledgment recognizing an enlisted person being awarded a Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation, or a personal decoration whenever personal performance is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty by a demonstration of exceptional judgement or initiative / Meritorious mast awards are used as official recognition for a job well done

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:** **BERRY**

**HAROLD J.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Harold J. Berry honorably served in the United States Military / Harold J. Berry was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BETTINGER**

**JAMES J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** COVINGTON DRIVE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1973

**Year Discharged:** 1976

**Unit / Squadron:**

DAVID GRANT MEDICAL CENTER

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant James J. Bettinger honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT James Bettinger was stationed at the David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base where he worked in a laboratory involved in blood testing and mircobiology

**Base Assignments:**

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Travis AFB, Fairfield, California - Originally named Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base, construction began on Travis in 1942 / In October 1942, the War Department assigned the base to the Air Transport Command with the primary mission during World War II to ferry aircraft and supplies to the Pacific Theater / On 1 May 1949, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) became the parent major command for Travis AFB with the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) resuming command of Travis AFB on 1 July 1958 / In 1992, with the reorganization of the Air Force following the end of the Cold War, Military Airlift Command (MAC) was inactivated and Travis came under the control of the newly-established Air Mobility Command (AMC)

## *Miscellaneous:*

James J. Bettinger graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School and attended Canisius College in Buffalo prior to enlisting in the Air Force / After his Honorable Discharge from the military, Bettinger remained in California, attending Fresno State University from 1977 thru 1979 receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in the field of Microbiology / From 1980 until his retirement in 2010, Bettinger was a Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Microbiologist at Fresno Veterans Medical Center in California

David Grant USAF Medical Center (DGMC) - 60th Medical Group, Travis AFB is the U.S. Air Force's largest medical center in the continental United States and serves military beneficiaries throughout eight western states / It is a fully accredited hospital with a National Quality Approval gold seal by the Joint Commission, and serves more than 500,000 Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care System eligible beneficiaries in the immediate San Francisco-Sacramento vicinity from 17 counties covering 40,000 square miles / DGMC is named in honor of Dr. (Maj. Gen.) David Norvell Walker Grant, USAAF, MC (1891-1964), the first Surgeon General of the U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Army Air Forces / The medical center first opened its doors to patients on 1 July 1943 as the 4167th Station Hospital at Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Field / After V-J Day, the primary mission of the AAF Station Hospital was to provide medical care for the station complement and transient personnel, and to perform routine examinations prior to the transfer to separation centers / On 1 July 1966, the USAF Hospital at Travis AFB was designated David Grant USAF Medical Center in honor of the late Major General (Dr.) David Norvell Walker Grant / DGMC encompasses 808,475 net square feet with 3,662 rooms and is staffed to operate 84 inpatient beds (expandable to 176), 16 aeromedical staging facility beds (expandable to 40) and 52 dental treatment rooms in the adjacent Arthur J. Sachsel Dental Clinic / DGMC operates one of six Air Force Clinical Investigation Facilities, working on medical innovation to improve care for the warfighter and the nation / Summaries from the DGMC research focus on critical care, trauma resuscitation, long-term health after combat and the cardiac effects of energy drinks are posted for viewing by the Air Force Medical 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BETZ**

CARL

J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Carl J. Betz honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the US Army, Carl Betz went to work for Quad/Quebecor/Arcata, retiring with over 40 years with the company / Carl J. Betz passed away on 2 August 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BETZ, JR.**

**JOHN**

**A**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

HIGHER HEADQUARTERS (HHQ) 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE

2ND ARMORED DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

DRIVER AND MECHANIC BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class John A. Betz, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

Fort 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Vũng Tàu, Vietnam - Vũng Tàu is a port city and the capital of Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province, on a peninsula in southern Vietnam / During the Vietnam War, various United States military units were headquartered in Vũng Tàu

Fort George G. Meade, Maryland - Located in Maryland, midway between the cities of Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington, DC, the fort was initially called Camp Annapolis Junction and was opened as "Camp Admiral" in 1917 / The post was called Camp Meade Cantonment and Field Signal School by 1918 / During World War II, Fort Meade was used as a recruit training post and prisoner of war camp / Fort George G. Meade's primary mission is to provide a wide range of services to 95 partner organizations from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as to several federal agencies including the National Security Agency, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the Defense Information School, the Defense Courier Service, the U.S. Army Field Band and most recently the U.S. Cyber Command

Fort Hood, Texas - Located in Killeen, Texas, the United States Army post was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood and is the largest military base in the world (by area) with more than 215,000 acres / During the late 1960's, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the fort's divisions

### *Miscellaneous:*

John A Betz, Jr. graduated from Depew High School prior to his military service / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Betz was employed by Erie Community College (ECC) where he spent 50 years in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) field

Originally constituted as the 3907th Signal Service Battalion in 1944, the battalion was designated on 19 July 1951 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Signal Support Battalion, and allotted to the Regular Army / The battalion was later reorganized and designated on 15 June 1954 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion / The 39th Signal Battalion received many Army Meritorious Unit Commendations for service in Vietnam

The 1st Signal Brigade was activated on 1 April 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam / The brigade's mission in Vietnam was to originate, install, operate, and maintain a complex communication system that fused tactical and strategic communications in Southeast Asia under a single, unified command / The formation of the brigade brought together three signal groups that were already in South Vietnam / At the peak of the Vietnam War the brigade consisted of more than 21,000 soldiers, in six Signal groups (including the 160th Signal Group), 22 signal battalions and several communications agencies, making the 1st Signal Brigade the largest signal unit in the U.S. Army at the time

The 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels") was an armored division of the United States Army / The division played an important role during World War II in the invasions of North Africa and Sicily and the liberation of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands and the invasion of Germany / The First Battalion, Fiftieth Infantry; Second Squadron, First Cavalry; First Battalion, Fourteenth Field Artillery; and First Battalion, Ninety-second Field Artillery fought in the war in Vietnam / During the Cold War, the division was primarily based at Fort Hood,



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Texas, and had a reinforced brigade forward stationed in West Germany / After participation in the Persian Gulf War, the division was deactivated in 1995 / Its units were later transferred to the 4th Infantry Division

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

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 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 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEUTLER**

**ROBERT D.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** SW2

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

USN NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 1 (NMCB 1)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Steelworker Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Daniel Beutler honorably served in the United States Navy / SW2 Robert Beutler was deployed to Vietnam as an Equipment Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Beutler was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / Robert D. Beutler passed away on 15 April 2020 at the age of 80 years old

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 (NMCB 1), is a United States Navy Seabee battalion commissioned on 15 March 1942 / NMCB 1 has a long, proud and distinguished history as the very first Naval Construction Battalion of the service that would become known as the Seabees / MCB 1 was the first Atlantic Fleet Battalion to deploy to Vietnam / From 1966 to 1970, the Battalion made four consecutive deployments to Southeast Asia / During the second deployment an urgent airfield was needed at Quảng Trị /The project was designated "top secret", site "X", and to be completed in under 45 days / MCBs 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 74, 121, and 133 all sent detachments of men and equipment to get the job done/ The Battalion, while in Vietnam, received the Navy Unit Commendation in 1968, 1969, and 1970

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 /Navy personnel who have been



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attached to a Fleet Marine Force Unit in active combat with an armed enemy beginning with World War II are authorized to wear a 1/8 inch bronze miniature Marine Corps emblem centered on the suspension ribbon of the World War II Area Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal

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 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:** **BEYER**

**FREDERICK J.**

**Hometown:** MARYSVILLE, PA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** HN

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9)

**Medals / Citations:**

GOLDEN SHELLBACK

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

**Service Notes:**

Hospitalman Frederick J. Beyer honorably served in the United States Navy / HN Frederick Beyer attended Operating Room School at Bethesda Naval Hospital and was enrolled in the Hospital Corpsman School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois

**Base Assignments:**

Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois - Home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy

Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland - The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), formerly known as the National Naval Medical Center and referred to as the Bethesda Naval Hospital Bethesda, Walter Reed, or Navy Med, is a tri-service military medical center located in the community of Bethesda, Maryland, near the headquarters of the National Institutes of Health / It is one of the most prominent U.S. military medical centers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and the United States, having served numerous U.S. presidents since the 20th century / In 1938, the United States Congress appropriated funds for the acquisition of land for the construction of a new Naval medical center, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt selected the present site in Bethesda, Maryland, on 5 July 1938 / In 2011, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), named after yellow fever researcher Walter Reed, was combined with the National Naval Medical Center to form the tri-service Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

**Miscellaneous:**

Prior to his enlistment in the Navy, Frederick Beyer graduated from Susquenita High School in Duncannon,



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Pennsylvania / After his Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Beyer attended and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts Degree from Manahath Bible College in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania / Beyer continued his education enrolled at the Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia where he received his Master of Divinity (M. Div.) degree and the Grace Theological Seminary, located in Winona Lake, Indiana, where Beyer earned his Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degree (religious equivalent of the Ph.D.) / After completing his education, Frederick Beyer started his career as a Chaplain serving his community and performing his duties at Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital, Children's Hospital of Buffalo and also at Hospice Buffalo

The USS Long Beach (CLGN-160/CGN-160/CGN-9) was a nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser in the United States Navy / She was the only ship of her class and the third Navy ship named after the city of Long Beach, California and was the first nuclear-power surface warship in history / The Long Beach was commissioned on 9 September 1961 / The Long Beach served with the 6th Fleet in the early 1960's providing peacekeeping in the Mediterranean and in the later 1960's was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin to support naval operations during the Vietnam War / The Long Beach was again deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in the 1990's, serving as an escort for the USS Missouri task force and providing aircraft carrier escort support after the Gulf War / The USS Long Beach was decommissioned on 1 May 1995 and sold as scrap in July 2012

The Golden Shellback - The ceremony of Crossing the Line is an initiation rite in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marine Corps that commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the Equator / The ceremony observes a mariner's transformation from a slimy Pollywog (a seaman who hasn't crossed the equator), to a trusted Shellback (also called a Son or Daughter of Neptune) / It was a way for sailors to be tested for their seaworthiness / The tradition may have originated with ceremonies to ensure a ship's newest mates were capable of handling long rough times at sea



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIALASIK JR.**

**MICHAEL S.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS DAVIS (DD-937)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael S. Bialasik, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Michael Bialasik was assigned to the destroyer, USS Davis from 1963-1965

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Bialasik graduated from Seneca Vocational High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Michael Bialasik was employed by the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Buffalo, retiring in 2010 after 25 years of service / Bialasik was an electrician and was a lifetime member of I.B.E.W. Local 41/ Michael S. Bialasik, Jr. passed away at the age of 78 years old on 29 October 2022

USS Davis (DD-937) was a Forest Sherman-class destroyer and named for Commander George Fleming Davis, commander of the USS Walke (DD-723), killed in action at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon in the Philippine Islands on 6 January 1945 / The Davis was commissioned on 6 March 1957 and patrolled the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, attached to the Sixth Fleet / During the Vietnam War, the USS Davis patrolled the southern-most region of South Vietnam, providing gunfire support for South Vietnamese forces and their American advisors / The Davis left the Vietnamese waters in June 1966, returning to the Mediterranean / The Davis returned to South Vietnam in 1968, operating in support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, below the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / during the 1970's, the Davis patrolled the North Atlantic / The Davis was decommissioned on 20 December 1982 and sold for scrap to the Fore River Shipyard and Iron Works in Quincy, Massachusetts on 11 December 1992, eventually being scrapped by Wilmington Resources of Wilmington, North Carolina



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIALKOWSKI**

**JOHN J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 46 EASTWOOD DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CN

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 11 (NMCB11)

3RD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION (NC) BRIGADE (BDE), UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM (USNAVFORV)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Constructionman John Joseph Bialkowski honorably served in the United States Navy / CN John Bialkowski served with the Seabees and was deployed to Vietnam in April 1967 as an Electrician / Seabee CN John L. Bialkowski was Killed in Action on 24 June 1967 from enemy fire, causing his truck to crash, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The battalion of CN John Bialkowski was based at Dong Ha which was about ten miles from the DMZ and North Vietnam where his battalion was shelled many times with artillery and rockets / On 24 June 1967, CN John Bialkowski was part of a four-man trash truck detail dumping trash at Don Ha Combat Base dump when he was run over by a dump truck, reportedly during enemy shelling of the base / He was fatally injured in the incident

Bialkowski trained as a Construction Electrician (Power Lineman).

**Base Assignments:**

Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois - Home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy



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Davisville, Rhode Island - was formerly the home of the Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center, which housed the United States Navy's SeaBees / The Navy acquired the property in 1939 and built Naval Air Station Quonset Point / In 1942, adjoining properties were developed for training Seabees, including the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Davisville / After World War II, the Naval Air Station remained in operation, but the NCBC was inactive until 1951, when the site was designated Headquarters, NCBC / The Naval Air Station was decommissioned in 1974.

## *Miscellaneous:*

John Bialkowski was a graduate of West Seneca Senior High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute before joining the Navy in December 1965 / John Joseph Bialkowski was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

John Joseph Bialkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 56

A Seabee is a member of the United States Naval Construction Forces (NCF) / The word "Seabee" comes from the initials "CB", which in turn comes from the term "Construction Battalion" / The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and accomplishing countless other construction projects in a wide variety of military theaters dating back to World War II

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

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

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

The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement



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

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

The Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936 / The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" / The Navy Expeditionary Medal was retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874

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:** **BIALY**

**JAMES E.**

**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:**

James Ewell Bialy honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Bialy attended the State University of New York (SUNY), Cobleskill and the University at Buffalo / Bialy moved to Boynton Beach, Florida and was employed as Custodial Manager at the Palm Beach Post / James Ewell Bialy passed away on 12 March 2026 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BICKELMAN**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 127TH ARMOR, 3RD BRIGADE,  
27TH ARMORED DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class (E-4) James "Jim" Bickelman honorably served in the Army National Guard / SP4 James Bickelman served for 6 years as a Motor Transport Operator / Bickelman also served as a Driver Instructor and driver for his commanding officer

SP4 James Bickelman received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army National Guard on 25 August 1969

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Buffalo Masten Avenue Armory , Best Street & Masten Avenue, Buffalo - The Buffalo Armory was built in 1902 and in 1931 a fire started in the basement of the Masten Avenue Armory / The fire destroyed the armory and spread and destroyed a church and many nearby homes / It has been called one of the worst fires in the history of the city of Buffalo / The Armory was rebuilt in 1933 and was the home of the the 106th Field Artillery unit and later home to other units including the 127th Artillery, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 127th Artillery, and the 105th Military Police Company

**Miscellaneous:**

James "Jim" Bickelman passed away on 5 January 2023 at the age of 79 years old



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The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government

The 27th Armored Division was a United States Army formation. It was part of the New York Army National Guard in the 1950s and 1960s / In February, 1955 a reorganization of the Army National Guard included reorganizing the 27th Infantry Division as the 27th Armored Division / In 1955, the composition of the 27th Armored Division included the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 27th Armored Division / The 27th Armored Division was inactivated in February, 1968 during another reorganization of the Army National Guard / During its existence the 27th Armored Division was not activated for federal service and saw no combat / It was activated for state service, including the response to the 1964 Rochester riot / The division was reorganized in 1968 as the 27th Armored Brigade, a unit of the 50th Armored Division / The 27th Armored Brigade was reorganized as an Infantry brigade in 1975 and aligned with the 42nd Infantry Division / In 1985 the 27th Infantry Brigade was activated as part of the New York Army National Guard, and assigned as the "roundout" brigade of the Army's 10th Mountain Division / The 27th Infantry Brigade carries on the lineage and history of the 27th Infantry Division



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BIEHUNIK

JOSEPH

F.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

65TH DIVISION ENGINEER BATTALION, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Joseph F. Biehunik honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Biehunik served for 36 months and was trained as a Combat Engineer, serving with the 65th Engineers at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Joseph F. Biehunik was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 18 November 1958

**Base Assignments:**

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii – Schofield Barracks is a United States Army installation and census-designated place (CDP) located in the City and County of Honolulu and in the Wahiawa District of the Hawaiian island of Oahu, Hawaii / Schofield Barracks is named after Lieutenant General John McAllister Schofield, who was the Commanding General of the United States Army from August 1888 to September 1895 / He had been sent to Hawaii in 1872 and had recommended the establishment of a naval base at Pearl Harbor / The post was established in 1908 to provide mobile defense of Pearl Harbor and the entire island / It has been the home of the 25th Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Tropic Lightning" division, since 1941, as well as the headquarters for United States Army Hawaii (USARHAW)

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Biehunik worked for the Buffalo Police Department for 41 years, retiring as a Detective / Joseph F. Biehunik passed away on 25 June 2025 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of



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friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

The 65th Division Engineer Battalion was constituted in the Regular Army on 18 October 1927 as the 65th Engineer Battalion / The Battalion remained inactive until assigned to the 25th Infantry Division as a combat engineer battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on 1 October 1941 / In the Pacific Campaigns of World War II and in the Korean War, the 65th Engineers were called on to clear mines and booby traps and to assist combat elements in emplacing friendly and reducing enemy obstacles and fortifications / The Battalion also performed missions to improve roads and trails and built bridges to facilitate the resupply of the front lines and speed the evacuation of casualties / The 65th earned distinction in direct ground combat with the enemy / In World War II, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Companies each earned a Presidential Unit Citation for Gallantry on Luzon / In Korea, Alpha Company earned the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) for their support to Wolfhounds defending the Pusan Perimeter. Bravo Company earned a PUC fighting alongside the 35th Regimental Combat Team's during their heroic stand at the Nam River. Charlie Company earned a PUC in support of the 25th Infantry Division's tough combat operations near the city of Taegu / The 65th Engineer Battalion participated in all ten campaigns of the Korean Conflict, receiving a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two awards of the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation / In 1954, after more than 12 years and 800 days in battle, the Battalion finally returned to Schofield Barracks / The first element of the 65th to depart for Vietnam was Charlie Company, which lived up to the Battalion's motto by being "first in," deploying ahead of the 25th Infantry Division to help develop the port at Cam Ranh Bay / The Battalion participated in twelve Vietnam campaigns, receiving a Meritorious Unit Commendation, two awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Civil Action Honor Medal / The Battalion departed Vietnam on 8 December 1970, after nearly three years engaged in combat / Before standing down in 2005 to be reorganized as the Special Troops Battalion for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division, the Battalion was engaged in every major operation our Army undertook, including Uphold Democracy, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducted military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / After undergoing major reorganizations in 1957 and 1963 to adapt to changing tactics, the division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan / Its present deployment is composed of light infantry and aviation units / Tropic Lightning soldiers regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIERON**

**JOSEPH**

**F.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Joseph F. Bieron honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Joseph Bieron was stationed at the Redstone Arsenal, Alabama as a Chemist

**Base Assignments:**

Redstone Arsenal, Alabama - Redstone Arsenal (RSA) is a United States Army post adjacent to Huntsville in Madison County, Alabama, United States and is part of the Huntsville-Decatur Combined Statistical Area / The Arsenal is a garrison for various tenants across the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, and NASA / Established during World War II as a chemical manufacturing facility / Following the immediate post-war era, the Arsenal was used for research and development by German weapons rocket scientists who were brought to the U.S. as part of Operation Paperclip / The team first worked on ballistic missiles, starting with V-2 rocket derivatives, before moving on to a series of ever larger designs / Many of their tests were carried out at White Sands Missile Range and flights between the two locations were common / In late 1956 the Army was relieved of most of its ballistic missiles in favor of similar weapons operated by the US Air Force / The German design team was spun off to become part of the newly founded National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) / The Arsenal served as the primary site for space launch vehicle design into the 1960s

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Bieron graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Canisius College and the University of Buffalo, where he earned his Doctorate in Chemistry / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Bieron was employed by Canisius College where he taught Chemistry and spent eight years as the Dean of Arts and Sciences / After 40 years at Canisius, Joseph Bieron retired from full-time teaching in 2004, continuing to serve as Professor Emeritus / Bieron founded the Canisius College Press in 1995, which published many local interest books, including history books / Joseph Bieron served on the Orchard Park School Board for many years during the 2000's / During sabbaticals from Canisius College, Bieron worked for Occidental Chemical Corp where he



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developed several patents and also worked with the Smithsonian Institute to develop an exhibit called "Science in American Life", which opened in Washington, D.C. in 1993 / Joseph F. Bieron passed away on 14 December 2023 at the age of 86 years old

Redstone Arsenal is a United States Army base adjacent to Huntsville, Alabama in the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge / The Arsenal is a host to over 75 tenant agencies, including the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and NASA's largest field center, the Marshall Space Flight Center / Established during World War II as a chemical manufacturing facility, in the immediate post-war era the Arsenal was used for research and development by German rocket scientists who were brought to the United States as part of Operation Paperclip / The team first worked on ballistic missiles, starting with derivatives of the V-2 rocket, before moving on to a series of ever larger designs / In 1956 the Army was relieved of most of its ballistic missiles in favor of similar weapons operated by the US Air Force / The Arsenal served as the primary site for space launch vehicle design and testing into the 1960s



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIGELOW**

**LAWRENCE C.**

**Hometown:** LAKEVIEW

**Address:** 293 EAST LANE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Lawrence Carol Bigelow honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Lawrence Bigelow was deployed to Vietnam on 8 October 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Lawrence Bigelow was killed on 5 April 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

"A" Company, 2nd Bn, 7th Cavalry, lost seven men on 5 April 1970: 1LT John W. Rohr, New Bedford, MA; SSG Eugene P. Gee, Oxford, NC; SGT Lawrence C. Bigelow, Lake View, NY; SGT David R. Borzych, Pulaski, WI; CPL Charles M. Cobb, Dallas, TX; CPL Calvin J. Layton, Greenville, MS; CPL Steven M. Torrey, Guttenberg, IA / The body of SP4 Lawrence Bigelow body was recovered / SP4 Lawrence Bigelow received a posthumous promotion to Sergeant

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence Bigelow was a 1966 graduate of Frontier Central High School / Bigelow completed his first year at State University of Buffalo in 1967 / Lawrence Bigelow was employed by Bethlehem Steel before entering the U.S. Army in 1967 / Lawrence Carol Bigelow was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Derby, New York



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Lawrence Carol Bigelow is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12w, Line 95

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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



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

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

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

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

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:** **BIGGIE**

**DONALD H.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Donald H. "Coach" Biggie honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Biggie coached Baseball in The Buffalo Parochial Baseball League for over 25 years / Donald H. "Coach" Biggie passed away on 10 February 2026 at the age of 87 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIGGIE**

**KENNETH J.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Kenneth J. Biggie honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth Biggie worked as the Community Development Officer with the Town of West Seneca for many years and was a longtime substitute teacher throughout the West Seneca and Orchard Park School Districts / Kenneth J. Biggie passed away on 17 December 2024 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BINNER**  
**GEORGE**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

George Binner honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George Binner was a College Administrator at the University of Buffalo, Buffalo State, Canisius College and Hilbert College / George "Bud" Binner passed away on 9 October 2024 at the age of 88 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIONDO, SR.**

**JOSEPH J.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS YOSEMITE (AD-19)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph J. Biondo, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Joseph Biondo served aboard the USS Yosemite

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Station Newport (NAVSTA Newport) is a United States Navy base located in the city of Newport and the town of Middletown, Rhode Island / Naval Station Newport is home to the Naval War College and the Naval Justice School / The Newport Training Station was founded in 1883 and was intended to provide education for young men and boys for a ten month period / Naval Station Newport hosts approximately 50 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US Army Reserve commands and activities; it is one of the Navy's most important stateside training facilities and includes Officer Training School

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Biondo was employed by Fisher Price as a Designer Packaging Engineer / Joseph J. Biondo, Sr. passed away on 29 July 2024 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Assumption Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

USS Yosemite (AD-19) (nicknamed the "Yo Yo") was a Dixie-class destroyer tender built during World War II for the U.S. Navy / Her mission was to service destroyers in, or near, battle areas and to keep them fit for duty / The fourth U.S. Navy ship to bear the name, Yosemite was commissioned on 26 March 1944 / On 29 August 1944, the USS Yosemite arrived in Pearl Harbor and for the next six months made repairs on over 200 ships / With the end of World War II, the destroyer tender arrived in Sasebo, Japan on 22 September 1945 and began tending ships assigned to the occupation forces in the Far East, lasting until March 1946 / During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the Yosemite headed south via Norfolk to Kingston, Jamaica, where she tended the ships engaged in Missile Crisis operation / During 1969, the USS Yosemite had a tour of duty in the Mediterranean, serving as



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flagship for the Commander, Service Force, 6th Fleet / Her final deployment was to the Persian Gulf as part of the ongoing Operation Desert Storm campaign, departing Mayport in October, 1991, with stops in Bahrain and the U.A.E., returning in March, 1992 / The USS Yosemite was decommissioned on 27 January 1994 and sunk on 18 November 2003 / During her 50-year service, USS Yosemite earned the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (2), Battle "E" Ribbon (5), Navy Expeditionary Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal (with Asia clasp), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Philippines Liberation Medal



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BIONDOLILLO, JR.**

**RUSSELL J.**

**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:**

Russell J. Biondolillo, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Russell Biondolillo was a retired Foreman of the Buffalo Sewer Authority / Russell J. Biondolillo, Jr. Passed away on 20 January 2026 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BISSELL**

**DONALD E.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**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:**

Donald Edward Bissell honorably served in the United States Air Force / Donald Bissell was deployed to Vietnam from 1969 - 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Bissell attended High School in Wellsville prior to enlisting in the U.S. Air Force / Donald Edward Bissell passed away on 27 November 2023 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at the WNY National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BIZUB

STEVEN M.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1973

**Year Discharged:** 1975

**Unit / Squadron:**

77TH FIELD ARTILLERY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

61ST AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY, EIGHTH US ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL W/1 OAK LEAF

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: VARIOUS WEAPONS

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Steven Michael Bizub honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Steven Bizub was assigned as an Airplane Electrician and as a Man Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) Crewmember / Sgt. Bizub served in the Army for 5 years during 2 different periods: 1973 - 1975 and 1983 - 1985

Steven Bizub was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 18 December 1985

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Steven Michael Bizub passed away on 26 February 2022 at the age of 65 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS or MPADS) are portable shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles / They are guided weapons and are a threat to low-flying aircraft, especially helicopters and also used against low-flying cruise missiles / These short-range missiles can also be fired from vehicles, tripods, weapon platforms, and warships / MANPADS were developed in the 1950s to provide military ground forces with protection from jet aircraft

The 77th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army. First constituted 1916 in the Regular Army as a cavalry regiment. Reorganized in 1917 as field artillery and given its current designation /



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The Regiment fought in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War and the Global War on Terrorism

The 61st Artillery (CAC) is an air defense artillery regiment in the United States Army and was activated at Fort Moultrie on 9 March 1918 and fought in France in July 1918 / The Regiment also fought in World War II and Korea

The Army Achievement Medal is the lesser of the U.S. military's meritorious service medals and was first introduced as a means to recognize the contributions of enlisted personnel and junior officers who were not qualified to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / Additional awards are denoted by oak leaf clusters

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 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

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:** **BLACHOWIAK**

**THADDEUS P.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thaddeus P. Blachowiak honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thaddeus P. Blachowiak passed away on 26 October 2024 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BLACK**

**WILLIAM K.**

**Hometown:** EAST AMHERST

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

William Kenneth "Kenny" Black honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Black was a retired New York State Trooper / William Kenneth "Kenny" Black passed away on 16 July 2024 at the age of 84 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BLADIN**

**JAMES**

**M.**

**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:**

James Martin "Jimmy" Bladin honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Bladin retired from the Buffalo News after 47 years of employment / Bladin was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #362 / James Martin "Jimmy" Bladin passed away on 29 January 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BLAIR  
GEORGE**

**Hometown:** WALES

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

George Blair honorably served in the United States Army / George Blair was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George Blair is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rademacher VFW Post #5861

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the



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present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

**Name:** **BLAMOWSKI**

**EUGENE**

**M.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Eugene M. Blamowski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Eugene Blamowski was a member of American Legion Post #567 in Orchard Park / Eugene M. Blamowski passed away on 3 September 2025 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BLATTENBERGER**

**RICHARD B.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Richard Bruce Blattenberger honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Richard Blattenberger was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and an Oak Leaf Cluster for two wounds suffered during combat operations

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Bruce Blattenberger passed away on 27 February 2012 at the age of 66 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

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 / 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

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



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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BLEYLE

DWIGHT

R.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Dwight Richard Bleyle honorably served in the United States Army / Dwight Bleyle was stationed in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Dwight Bleyle attended the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo earning undergraduate degrees in mathematics, science and economics and earning a Master's Degree in Mathematics / Bleyle taught in the Kenmore-Tonawanda School System from 1971 until his retirement in 2000 / Dwight Bleyle was a member of the Buffalo Bicycle Club and a member of the SUNY Buffalo Ski Club / Bleyle was a certified SCUBA Diver / After his retirement, Bleyle moved to Park City, Utah / Dwight Richard Bleyle passed away on 26 April 2025 at the age of 79 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BLOWERS**

**TIMOTHY**

**C.**

**Hometown:** NORTH COLLINS

**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:**

Timothy C. Blowers honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Timothy C. Blowers passed away on 1 March 2024

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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:** **BLUM, SR.**

**MICHAEL C.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** MSGT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE

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

**Service Notes:**

Master Sergeant Michael Charles Blum, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / MSGT Michael Blum was assigned as a Field Radio Operator and was stationed in South Vietnam for 10 months / MSGT Blum served approximately 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and approximately 10 years in the New York Air National Guard, finally retiring after 20 years of active and reserve duty

MSGT Michael Blum was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 31 March 1970

**Base Assignments:**

Niagara Air Base, Niagara Falls, N.Y. - The Niagara Falls Air Force Base is an Air Force Reserve Command military installation operationally-gained by the Air Mobility Command / It is located adjacent to Niagara Falls International Airport, New York, 4.7 miles east-northeast of Niagara Falls, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard) / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base.

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Charles Blum, Sr. passed away on 14 June 2021 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Field Radio Operator is skilled in the long list of radios for all frequency ranges and uses / The radios used



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

are divided among the frequency range as well as for their specific uses / The Radioman will not be an infantryman or a tanker, but if assigned to those units, he will be fighting side by side with the members of those combat units and carrying a radio or operating the vehicle-mounted radio / Some select radiomen will get assigned to go out with the infantry companies and will be responsible for the communications in that company / However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was activated August 1, 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on July 20, 1924 / The battalion was reactivated March 1, 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The force was active for only a brief period of time, during which it was deployed to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina / Shortly after the United States entered into World War II, the unit was reactivated February 11, 1942, at New River, North Carolina / It was again assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, and was a part of the American advance into Japanese territory in the Pacific / The first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign, during which the battalion defended Henderson Field, an airfield on Guadalcanal, and withstood Japanese bombings of the strategic location / The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment was deployed to Kobe, Japan in preparation for its participation in the Korean War from September 1950 – July 1953, during which it fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, and assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force / The Battalion participated in the War in Vietnam, November 1965 – May 1971, engaging in numerous major operations and battles / Unit awards included the Vietnam Service Medal with two Silver and three Bronze Stars, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer and the Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Action Medal

The Air National Guard (ANG) is a federal military reserve force of the United States Air Force, as well as the air militia of each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands / Its federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies / In the Air National Guard, you can serve your country and community, with career and leadership opportunities, healthcare and education benefits, and the freedom to choose how you serve

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOBINSKI**

**THOMAS**

**H.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas Henry Bobinski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Bobinski was employed by Bethlehem Steel Manufacturing, Pyron Metalworking Institute, Covenant Transport and finally the United States Postal Service, retiring in 2013 / Thomas Henry Bobinski pass away on 25 July 2024 at the age of 75 years of age and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOBO, JR.**

**WILLIAM**

**P.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**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:**

William Perry Bobo, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / William Bobo served as a platoon leader, executive officer and troop commander of an armored cavalry corps in South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Bobo graduated from Virginia State University (Petersburg, Virginia) in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration / William P. Bobo, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army and was commissioned an Officer / After his Honorable Discharge in 1970, Bobo was employed by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical / In 1980, Bobo was recruited by Abbott Laboratories and retired in 1998 as General Manager of Plant Operations in Buffalo / William Bobo started WPTBobo Investment Partners after his retirement / For his 50 years of Achievement, Virginia State University honored William Bobo as the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award winner / Bobo was a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and was the Northern Province Board of Directors Member for New York / William Bobo served as Judge Advocate and Finance Officer for the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post #430 / William Perry Bobo, Jr. passed away on 26 March 2022 at the age of 75 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOBOWSKI, JR.**

**JAN**

**E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 80 WOLTZ AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY E, 3RD BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, USAV

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Jan Bobowski was deployed to Vietnam in February 1968 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / During an engagement with enemy forces on 7 April 1968 in the vicinity of Dong Tam in Kien Hoa Province, Sergeant Bobowski was killed in action by hostile rifle fire / SGT Bobowski was declared missing in action until recovered on 22 April 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jan Bobowski was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School and attended Canisius College before being inducted into the U.S. Army in December 1966 / Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalberts Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48e, Line 39

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The U.S. 60th Infantry Regiment is a regimental unit in the United States Army constituted 15 May 1917 / Its 2nd and 3rd Battalion conduct Basic Combat Training / Participating in three wars on three continents, the 60th has played a conspicuous role in the achievements of 5th Division in World War I and 9th Infantry Division in World War II and Vietnam / After service as the 2nd Battle Group, 60th Infantry from 1958 to 1962, three battalions (2/60, 3/60, and 5/60 Mechanized) were activated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and assigned to the 9th Infantry Division for its deployment to the Republic of Vietnam in December 1966 / The 9th Division was the only major U.S. combat unit to conduct operations in the Mekong Delta / On 13 September 1968, the 5th/60th Mech was "swapped" with the 1st/16th of the 1st Infantry Division / From then until August 1970, the 5th/60th operated as a "straight leg" infantry unit / The battalions of the 60th Infantry participated in both Riverine operations and "jitterbug tactics" which featured split-second timing of airmobile insertions in close proximity to enemy units / Beginning with the 3rd Brigade in July 1969, the 9th Infantry Division was the first US Division to be withdrawn from Vietnam / From the Summer of 1969 through the Fall of 1970, units of the 3rd Brigade remained in the Mekong Delta; operating under the command of the 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi / The Division returned to Ft. Lewis, Washington in 1970, where its battalions were inactivated

The 9th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Reliables") is an inactive infantry division of the United States Army / It was created as the 9th Division during World War I, but never deployed overseas / In later years it was an important unit of the U.S. Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The 9th Division was reactivated on 1 February 1966, and arrived in South Vietnam on 16 December 1966 from Fort Riley, Kansas / On deployment the division was assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam where it commenced operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-31 May 1967) in Operation Palm Beach / Its area of operations was in the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta from 1967 to 1972 / Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled Delta, the Division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program / The Division's major units departed from South Vietnam on 27 August 1969 (HHC & 1st Brigade) to Hawaii; 27 August 1969 (2nd Brigade) to Fort Lewis, Washington; 12 October 1970 (3rd Brigade) to Fort Lewis / It was also activated as a peacetime readiness unit from 1947 to 1962 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and from 1972 to 1991 as an active-duty infantry division at Fort Lewis, Washington / The division was deactivated in December 1991

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOCHNEWETCH II**  
**SHERMAN**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant Sherman Bochnewetch II honorably served in the United States Army / 1LT Sherman Bochnewetch was deployed to Vietnam in December 1968 as an Infantry Unit Commander / 1LT Sherman Bochnewetch was Killed In Action on 28 February 1970 when a land mine exploded while he was leading an infantry platoon on a combat mission in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam

1LT Sherman Bochnewetch was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, posthumously

First Lieutenant Sherman (Skip) Bochnewetch II graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was in the top ten of his class

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Sherman Bochnewetch graduated from Orchard Park High School in 1962, where he played football and ran track / Bochnewetch obtained the rank of Eagle Scout with Explorer Post #268 / Sherman Bochnewetch attended Florida State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1967 / Sherman (Skip) Bochnewetch II was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Sherman Bochnewetch II is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 66

Infantry Unit Commanders lead and control the Infantry and combined armed forces during land operations / Other duties include coordinating employment of Infantry Soldiers at all levels of command, including multinational operations / Developing infantry doctrine, organizations, and equipment unique to these operations

The 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1940, in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in the Vietnam War), briefly in 1991–1992 at Fort Lewis, and from 2007 as an active army training formation at Fort Moore / The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War / Nicknamed "the Redcatchers", the unit was hastily moved to Song Be, Vietnam on 10 December 1966 to provide an increased U.S. presence in the III Corps Tactical Zone and remained there until its return to Fort Benning on 11 October 1970 / The brigade was conducting Operation Uniontown in Dong Nai Province when the 1968 Tet Offensive began / It immediately began a defense of U.S. II Field Force headquarters at Long Binh Post against attacks by the VC 275th Regiment / One battalion was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong command post at the Phu Tho racetrack inside Saigon, then engaged in house-to-house fighting in Cholon / During 1969, the 199th was responsible for the security of the region north and east of the capital, and in 1970 moved into the "Iron Triangle" when other units participated in the Cambodian Incursion / The brigade was deactivated in 1970 until it was reactivated in 1991 and 2006

The 3rd Infantry Regiment is a regiment of the United States Army / It currently has three active battalions, and is readily identified by its nickname, The Old Guard / From 1840 to 1843, the 3rd Infantry fought in the Seminole War in Florida / The 3rd Infantry saw extensive service during the United States Civil War and was credited with 12 campaigns / During World War II, the 3rd Infantry served most of the war as a separate regiment and was not assigned to a combat division until 50 days before the German surrender / On 1 June 1966, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry regiment was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia and assigned to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (199th LIB) / The 199th LIB deployed to South Vietnam in December 1966 operating throughout III Corps / The 199th LIB returned to the United States in 1970 and the 2nd Battalion was inactivated on 15 October 1970 at Fort Benning

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

Name: **BODECKER**

**JAMES A.**

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

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:

James A. Bodecker honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James A. Bodecker passed away on 27 October 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BODUCH**  
**JOHN**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

John Boduch honorably served in the United States Military / John Boduch was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOERSCHIG**

**GARY L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 884 MILL ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO2

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV/CVA-62)

ELECTRONIC ATTACK SQUADRON 133 (VAQ-133)

**Medals / Citations:**

AIRCREWMAN WINGS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SQUADRON UNIT CITATION

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Second Class Gary L. Boerschig honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 Gary Boerschig was assigned to the flight crew aboard a Grumman HU-16 Albatross as a radioman and flew rescue and goodwill missions to the Marianna and Marshall Island chains / PO2 Boerschig also flew Air-Sea Rescue missions while stationed at NAS Agana / As an Aviation Electronics Technician (AT-2), Petty Officer Boerschig perform maintenance on aviation electronics systems, which included: communications, radar, navigation, antisubmarine warfare sensors, electronic warfare, data link, fire control and tactical displays

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Air Station (N.A.S.) Agana, Guam - Former Japanese Military Field recaptured by American forces in 1944 and renamed Agana Airfield / After being repaired in October 1944, the United States Army Air Forces Seventh Air Force used the airfield as a base for the 11th Bombardment Group, which flew B-24 Liberator bombers from the station / In 1947, the USAAF turned over the airfield to the United States Navy / Naval Air Station Agana was closed in 1993

Naval Air Station Alameda, California - Naval air station facilities were constructed in 1940 for two carrier air wings, five seaplane squadrons and two utility squadrons / In April 1942, the USS Hornet (CV-8) loaded at Alameda the 16 B-25 aircraft that would take part in the Doolittle Raid on Japan / The base was the focus for northern California United States Navy Reserve drill after 1961 / Runways were lengthened for jet aircraft, and the airport was renamed Nimitz Field in 1967 following the death of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz / Nuclear powered aircraft carriers were home ported at Alameda into the 1990s / NAS Alameda was closed on 25 April



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

1997

## *Miscellaneous:*

Gary Boerschig was a graduate of West Seneca West Senior High School / Prior to military service, Boerschig attended Roberts Wesleyan College for three years and worked at Hanna Furnace during the summer breaks / After an honorable discharge, Gary Boerschig went to work at Allied Chemical as a Chemical Operator and Welder until his retirement in 1982 / Gary retrained and received his Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree as an Electrical Engineer Technician from Erie Community College

The fifth USS Independence (CV/CVA-62) was an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy and entered service in 1959 as the fourth and final member of the Forrestal class of conventionally powered supercarriers / Independence made a single tour off the coast of Vietnam in 1965 during the Vietnam War, and also carried out airstrikes against Syrian forces during the Lebanese Civil War and operations over Iraq during Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq / The USS Independence was decommissioned in 1998 after 39 years of active service.

Electronic Attack Squadron 133 (VAQ-133) was established 4 March 1969 at Naval Air Station Alameda, California. The squadron originally flew the EKA-3B Skywarrior / Following the 2012-2013 deployment of Carrier Air Wing 9 onboard USS John C. Stennis, VAQ-133 was reassigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight based aboard USS George H.W. Bush

The Grumman HU-16 Albatross is a large twin-radial engine amphibious flying boat that was used by the United States Air Force (USAF), the U.S. Navy (USN) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), primarily as a search and rescue aircraft / It was also employed as an operational support aircraft worldwide and for missions from the former NAS Agana, Guam during the Vietnam War / Goodwill flights were also common to the surrounding Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the early 1970s

The Aircrewman Badge, commonly known as Wings, is a qualification badge of the United States military that is awarded by all five branches of armed services to personnel who serve as crew members on board military aircraft / The badge is intended to recognize the training and qualifications required by aircrew of military aircraft / In order to qualify as an aircrew member and receive the Aircrew Badge, such personnel typically undergo advanced training in aircraft in-flight support roles

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

A 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOGDAN**  
**DELPHIN J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Delphin J. Bogdan honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Delphin Bogdan attended Emerson High School where he was an All High in Baseball / After graduation, Bogdan entered into military service, joining the US Army / Bogdan was a member of the WNY Softball Hall of Fame / Delphin J. "Del" Bogdan passed away on 17 April 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOGENRIEDER**

**ERNEST J.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Ernest J. Bogenrieder honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ernest Bogenrieder was a member of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Nash Council / Ernest J. Bogenrieder passed away on 5 November 2025 at the age of 86 years old

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOGOLD SR**  
**WILLIAM C.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William C. Bogold, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Bogold graduated from Kenmore High School before entering the U.S. Navy / After his Honorable Discharge, Bogold began a career as an Electrician, working for Niagara Mohawk / After his retirement, Bogold moved to Mishawaka, Indiana / William C. Bogold, Sr. passed away on 14 September 2024 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOJANEK**

**ROBERT A.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:** 293 PARAMOUNT PARKWAY

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

HHC, 14TH AVIATION BATTALION, 16TH AVIATION GROUP, AMERICAL DIVISION, USARV.

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Arthur Bojanek honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Bojanek was deployed to Vietnam on 9 July 1970 as a Medical Laboratory Specialist / SP4 Robert Bojanek was Killed In Action on 30 November 1970 from enemy rocket rounds during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 30 November 1970, the 16th Aviation Group Medical Dispensary at the Chu Lai Military Complex in Qunang Tin Province was hit by an enemy 122mm Rocket inflicting multiple casualties / SP4 Robert Bojanek was Killed In Action as a result of the explosion / Six other soldiers were killed having sustained injuries

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Fort Lewis is a United States Army base located 9.1 miles south-southwest of Tacoma, Washington / Fort Lewis was originally established in 1917 and was merged with McChord Air Force Base on 1 February 2010, to form Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) / Fort Lewis, named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States, consisting of 87,000 acres / From 1942 to 1943, 42 Japanese, German, and Italian Americans were held at Fort Lewis as part of the government's "enemy alien" internment program during World War II / The Japanese and Italian internees were transferred to Fort Missoula and the Germans to Fort Lincoln, and the temporary detention facility closed on 30 March 1943 / Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Fort Lewis) is the home of much of the 2nd Infantry Division, along with Headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Command, and the 1st Special Forces Group / The mission of the base is to provide support to mission commanders and the joint base community, to serve as an enabler to the soldiers as they train and project America's combat power

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

### *Miscellaneous:*

Robert Bojanek was a graduate of St Joseph's College Institute and Canisius College / Prior to entering the US Army in May of 1968, Bojanek worked as a Lab Technician for the Grand Island Biological Company / Robert Arthur Bojanek was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Robert Arthur Bojanek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06w, Line 97

Medical Laboratory Specialists are integral members of the medical laboratory technician team / They conduct tests on the tissue, blood, and bodily fluids of patients / In addition to providing blood support for various levels of care, medical laboratory specialists run laboratory operations and perform blood product drives with service members in sometimes austere deployed environments

The 14th Aviation Battalion was constituted on 2 Sept 1964, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion and was activated on 3 Sept 1964, at Ft Benning, Georgia / The Battalion Headquarters arrived in Saigon, RVN on 14 Oct 1964, and was assigned to the United States Army Support Command Vietnam / On 21 Oct 1964, Headquarters, 14th Aviation Battalion moved from Saigon to Nha Trang and the Battalion was declared operational on 17 Nov 1964 / The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion engaged the enemy from Nha Trang to Khe Sanh and into the Kingdom of Laos for over seven years / One hundred and fifty four soldiers were Killed In Action / The last remnants of the 14th Aviation Battalion were deployed back to the new home of the 14th Aviation Battalion, Ft Sill, Oklahoma, on 25 October 1971

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

The 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The Combat Medical Badge (CMB) is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945 / Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB / According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy; strict adherence to this requirement and its interpretation (e.g., distant mortar rounds vs. direct small arms fire) will vary by unit

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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:** **BOLLMAN**

**DAVID W.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1972

**Year Discharged:** 1975

**Unit / Squadron:**

ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMPANY, MAINTENANCE BATTALION, 2ND FORCE TROOPS, FLEET  
MARINE FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal David W. Bollman honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL David Bollman was assigned as a Tracked Vehicle Repairman

David Bollman was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps. On 18 July 1975

**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 Bollman was a member of Project Healing Waters and Trout Unlimited / David W. Bollman passed away on 4 May 2021 at the age of 67 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The Tracked Vehicle Repairman performs maintenance and repair on tanks and all other tracked vehicles

The broad mission of the Ordnance Corps is to supply combat units with weapons and ammunition, including at



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

times their procurement and maintenance

The mission of Ordnance Maintenance Company, Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force is to provide general support, intermediate (3rd and 4th echelon) maintenance support and Tracked Vehicle Recovery for Marine Corps -furnished ordnance equipment of a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)

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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOMMER**

**GERALD L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** MSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Master Sergeant Gerald L. Bommer honorably served in the United States Air Force / MSGT Gerald Bommer was assigned as a Flight Engineer for 32 years with multiple deployments beginning in Vietnam through the Gulf Wars and Operation Desert Shield/Storm

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald L Bommer passed away on 26 February 2017 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Saint Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Lancaster, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BONCORE**

**CARL J.**

**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:**

Carl John Boncore honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carl John Boncore passed away on 8 September 2023 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOOTH**  
**HERBERT**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Herbert Booth honorably served in the United States Military / Herbert Booth was deployed to Vietnam

**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:** **BOOTH III**  
**FRANK M.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Frank M. Booth III honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSGT Frank Booth III was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank M. Booth III passed away on 5 February 1992 at the age of 45 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

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

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The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

**Name:** **BORCZYNSKI**

**CHESTER**

**E.**

**Hometown:** ELMA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Chester E. Borczynski honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Chester Borczynski graduated from Canisius College / Borczynski was a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and was a partner in the firm of Arcara and Borczynski, LLP / Chester E. Borczynski passed away on 31 May 2025 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery, Elma, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BORCZYNSKI**

**FREDERICK E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 78 CARL STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

"D" CO, 6TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Frederick Earl Borczynski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Frederick Borczynski was deployed to Vietnam on 03 April 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Frederick Borczynski was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile mortar fire while defending his position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Along with SGT Frederick Borczynski, 5 other soldiers died from hostile mortar fire: SP4 Robert Vinson Bollman, SGT Danny Carlton Hayes, SGT James Randall Pruett, PFC Steven Paul Rance and SSG Richard Barry Trotter

Two brothers of Sergeant Frederick Borczynski, James and Wayne Borczynski, both served in the United States Army / Another brother, John Borczynski, served in the United States Marine Corps / James Borczynski also served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frederick Borczynski was a graduate of Burgard Vocational High School / Borczynski was an employee of Tops Markets, before being drafted into the U.S. Army in April 1966 / Frederick Earl Borczynski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Frederick Earl Borczynsk is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42w, Line 15

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 31st Infantry Division, also known as the "Dixie Division," was an infantry division of the United States Army National Guard / It was active almost continuously from 1917 to 1968 / The division saw service in both World War I and World War II, and was mobilized during the Korean War, although it was not sent overseas / The division was organized in 1917 during World War I from the national guardsmen of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, and deployed to France in September 1918, arriving weeks before the Armistice of 11 November that ended the war / It was mobilized in 1940 during World War II, and spent several years training in the United States In 1944 it was sent to the South-West Pacific Area, fighting in the New Guinea campaign and in the Battle of Mindanao / After the end of the war, the division was demobilized in December 1945 / Mobilized during the Korean War, the division served stateside at Camp Atterbury and Camp Carson / The 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Inf Division served in Vietnam from 8 April 1968 until departure on 12 October 1970

The 9th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Reliables") is an inactive infantry division of the United States Army / It was created as the 9th Division during World War I, but never deployed overseas / In later years it was an important unit of the U.S. Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The 9th Division was reactivated on 1 February 1966, and arrived in South Vietnam on 16 December 1966 from Fort Riley, Kansas / On deployment the division was assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam where it commenced operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-31 May 1967) in Operation Palm Beach / Its area of operations was in the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta from 1967 to 1972 / Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled Delta, the Division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program / The Division's major units departed from South Vietnam on 27 August 1969 (HHC & 1st Brigade) to Hawaii; 27 August 1969 (2nd Brigade) to Fort Lewis, Washington; 12 October 1970 (3rd Brigade) to Fort Lewis / It was also activated as a peacetime readiness unit from 1947 to 1962 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and from 1972 to 1991 as an active-duty infantry division at Fort Lewis, Washington / The division was deactivated in December 1991

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

**Name:** **BORCZYNSKI**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 265 EST MEADOWLAWN ROAD

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James Borczynski honorably served in the United States Army and was stationed in Vietnam

The brother of James Borczynski, Army Sergeant Frederick Earl Borczynski, was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile mortar fire while defending his position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Two other brothers of James Borczynski, Wayne Borczynski served in the United States Army and John Borczynski served in the Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BORCZYNSKI**  
**JOHN**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 265 EST MEADOWLAWN ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John Borczynski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

The brother of John Borczynski, Army Sergeant Frederick Earl Borczynski, was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile mortar fire while defending his position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Two other brothers of John Borczynski, Wayne and John Borczynski served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Borczynski was an original member of St. Christopher's Knights of Columbus / John Borczynski passed away on 13 July 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BORCZYNSKI**  
**WAYNE**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 265 EST MEADOWLAWN ROAD

**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:**

Wayne Borczynski honorably served in the United States Army / Wayne Borczynski was stationed at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey

The brother of Wayne Borczynski, Army Sergeant Frederick Earl Borczynski, was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile mortar fire while defending his position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Two other brothers of Wayne Borczynski, James Borczynski served in the United States Army and John Borczynski served in the Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Monmouth, New Jersey - Fort Monmouth is a former installation of the Department of the Army in Monmouth County, New Jersey / Originally called Camp Alfred Vail, in 1925 the Fort was renamed Fort Monmouth / It was named in honor of the soldiers of the American Revolutionary War who died in the Battle of Monmouth / At its peak during World War II, Fort Monmouth measured 1,713 acres and had billeting space for 1,559 officers and 19,786 enlisted personnel / The Eastern Signal Corps Training Center and other communication units, including the Pigeon Breeding and Training Center, were consolidated into Fort Monmouth after World War II ended / The pigeon service was discontinued in 1957; the birds were either sold at auction or donated to zoos / Slated by the Pentagon for closure, Fort Monmouth was officially closed on 15 September 2011

**Miscellaneous:**

Wayne Borczynski passed away on 3 April 2022 at the age of 73 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOREANAZ**

**RAYMOND L.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Raymond L. Boreanaz honorably served in the United States Air Force / Raymond Boreanaz was deployed to Vietnam as an Airplane Mechanic

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond Boreanaz owned and operated Boreanaz Automotive Specialties in Buffalo, New York / Boreanaz was a volunteer Fireman with the Twin District Fire Company / Raymond Boreanaz served as the Senior Dog Control Officer in Lancaster and was an Election Poll Worker / Boreanaz had a private Pilot's License and rebuilt a Piper Tri-Pacer airplane / Raymond L. Boreanaz passed away on 26 December 2024 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at St. Adelbert's Cemetery, Lancaster, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BORLAND  
GREGG R.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CAP

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Gregg R. Borland honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Gregg Borland served as a high-altitude Radar Intercept Controller / Captain Borland was based in Sacramento, California

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gregg Borland was born in Clay Center Kansas and was a graduate of Clay County Community High School and Kansas State University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in the Humanities / Borland was an Information Specialist for two years at the Central Intelligence Agency's Foreign Broadcast Information Service in Washington, D.C. / For three years, Borland was a civilian employee for the United States Air Force, organizing and producing educational plays for the military in England, France and Germany / Gregg Borland joined WNED-TV, Channel 17 in Buffalo at the Lafayette Hotel, editing the station's newsletter and handled public relations / After working many years at WNED, Borland left in 1980 to become the publicist for Artpark and client relations representative for Four Corners Abstract, Buffalo / Gregg R. Borland passed away on 2 October 2024 after a long illness at the age of 92 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOROWICZ**

**KENNETH P.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 457 SWEET AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Kenneth P. Borowicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Kenneth Borowicz was deployed to Vietnam on 10 April 1967 as a Rifleman / In the early morning hours of 2 February 1968, elements of Company "D" came under heavy attack at the Cam Lo District Headquarters in Quang Tri Province / The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) launched a ground attack using supporting arms against the Marines / Reaction units from Company "A" were immediately dispatched to assist their comrades battling a superior enemy force / The fighting continued into the afternoon with the Battalion suffering five men killed in action and thirteen wounded requiring evacuation by the time it subsided / Corporal Kenneth Borowicz was Killed In Action as a result of a hostile gunshot wound to his chest

Prior to his deployment to Vietnam, Corporal Kenneth Borowicz served three years as a Security Guard at the Brooklyn Naval Yard

02 February 1968

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits



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living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments

### *Miscellaneous:*

Kenneth Borowicz was a graduate of St. Adalbert's School and Burgard Vocational High School in 1964 / Kenneth P. Borowicz was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Kenneth P. Borowicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 36e, Line 66

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines (3/4) or (V34) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Nicknamed "Thundering Third" or Nicknamed "Darkside," it is based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, and consist of approximately 1,000 Marines / The battalion was first activated in 1925 at Naval Base San Diego, California / The 3/4 fought in World War II in the Battle of Corregidor, Guam and Okinawa / On 14 April 1965, the 3rd battalion, 4th Marines was deployed to an area near Chu Lai, South Vietnam / Two companies were sent north to Phu Bai to secure a small airfield just 8 miles south of Hue City / First contact was made on 22 April 1965 southwest of Da Nang with a Vietcong (VC) unit / The Marines at Phu Bai made their first contact on April 24 / They participated in company and platoon size patrols and ambushes against the VC in the Thua Thien–Hue Province till the end of June 1966 / On 31 January 1967, Operation Prairie II started / On 27 February 1967, L/3/4 and a tank platoon was involved in a battle near Hill 48 to save a recon team that ran into a PAVN Regiment / On the 28th other Marine companies including M/3/4 were brought in for ground operation / When the operation ended total casualties for both sides were put at 93 Marines killed, 483 wounded and the PAVN losses were put at 694 killed / Some of the other major Operations in 1967 were Operation Hickory (18 May to 28 May), Operation Kingfisher (16 July to 31 Oct) and Operation Kentucky near Con Thien in the western area of Leatherneck Square in the latter part of 1967 and in January 1968 / After 6 November 1968, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines were the last infantry battalion of the 3rd Marine Division left in South Vietnam / On 24 November 1969, the battalion sailed from Vietnam to Okinawa

1st Battalion, 4th Marines (1/4) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine



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Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / They fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was originally activated in April 1911 as the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment / The battalion first saw combat in November 1916 in the Dominican Republic / The outbreak of World War II found the battalion serving as part of the U.S. Forces defending the Philippines / In the spring of 1965 the battalion deployed to combat in South Vietnam / From 1965 to 1969 the battalion engaged in numerous conventional and counter-insurgency operations in the I Corps / Some of the major operations that 1/4 was involved in were Operation Prairie, Operation Beacon Hill, Operation Prairie IV, Operation Deckhouse IV, Operation Kentucky, Operation Purple Martin and Operation Napoleon/Saline would be fought from places such as the Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Con Thien and Ca Lu Combat Base / In November 1969 the battalion was redeployed to Okinawa and would also serve off the coast of Vietnam / The battalion participated in the rescue of the SS Mayaguez in May 1975

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary



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Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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:** **BORYSEWICZ**

**WESLEY**

**M.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Wesley M. Borysewicz honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Wesley Borysewicz worked for the Ascension Industries in North Tonawanda, New York retiring as the Sales Manager / Wesley M. Borysewicz passed away on 25 April 2024 at the age of 75 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BORYSZEWSKI**

**STEPHEN J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 51 TINDLE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORP.

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

H CO, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST FIRST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Stephen J. Boryszewski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Stephen Boryszewski was deployed to Vietnam on 10 November 1968 as a Rifleman / LCpl Boryszewski was Killed in Action on 10 April 1969 from fragmentation wounds suffered when an enemy land mine exploded in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Boryszewski was a 1967 graduate of South Park High School and worked for the National Aniline Division of Allied Chemical Corporation / Boryszewski enlisted into the Marine Corps in May 1968 / Stephen J. Boryszewski was 19 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Stephen J. Boryszewski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27w, Line 47

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horn on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operational requirements

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

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

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

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

The 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

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 Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BOSELA

RONALD J.

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Ronald J. Bosela honorably served in the United States Navy / Ronald Bosela as assigned as an Air Traffic Controller / Bosela was assigned for 3 years at the US Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB), Cuba - Guantanamo Bay is located approximately 430 miles southeast of Miami, on the southeastern coast of Cuba / Established in 1903, it is the United States' oldest overseas military installation and the only one in a communist country / According to the United States' lease with Cuba, the U.S. retains jurisdiction while Cuba maintains sovereignty over the 45-square-mile installation, which is surrounded by a fence line that stretches over 17 miles / NSGB serves as a key operational and logistics hub, supporting a variety of missions including maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and joint operations / Its unique geographic location provides strategic advantages, enhancing U.S. defense capabilities in the region and serving as a critical forward operating base for various military and humanitarian activities

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Bosela attended Maryvale School and after military service, graduated from University of Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Criminal Justice / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Ronald Bosela went to work for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an Air Traffic Controller, assigned to the Buffalo International Airport, Syracuse Hancock Airport and Niagara Falls International Airport / Bosela later went to work for New York State as a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Officer / During the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, Ron Bosela was assigned to Ground Zero, North Tower, monitoring National Guard activities and assisted with moving the command post from Ground Zero to the Piers / Due to illness caused by working the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center, Ronald J. Bosela passed away on 27 February 2026 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOSSMAN**

**PETER R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 84 BRIANWOOD DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** HM3

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** MIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

USNAVFORV, HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON 363, MARINE AIR GROUP 16

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AVIATOR BADGE NAVY

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Hospitalman Third-Class Peter Robert Bossman honorably served in the United States Navy / HM Peter Bossman was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman / HM3 Peter Bossman was declared Missing in Action on 25 September 1966 when the helicopter he was onboard was hit by enemy groundfire and crashed in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 25 September 1966 a UH-34D (BuNo 148776) belonging to HMM-161 launched on a night medical evacuation mission in support of a Marine unit that had suffered casualties and was engaged in heavy combat along Highway 9 in the jungle covered mountains during Operation Prairie / The weather was good with a very bright full moon / Four Marine aircrewmembers from HMM-161 and a Navy Corpsman (HM3 Peter Bossman) assigned to HMM-265 were aboard the aircraft / HM3 Bossman's UH-34 helicopter was hit in flight by an artillery shell, broke up, and crashed in flames / The incident was witnessed by crewmen in the escorting gunships from a distance of about 75 yards / Ground troops were able to reach the aircraft wreckage and were able to recover two badly burned bodies but no other remains / Although assault, medevac, and gunship helicopters regularly flew in areas being subjected to friendly artillery fire, this incident is the only documented case of a Marine helicopter being struck in flight by friendly fire / The crew of the UH34 was listed as killed, body not recovered including HM3 Peter Bossman who is listed as Missing In Action

Highway 9 was a primary east-west road that ran from the South Vietnamese-Laos border nearly to the



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

coastline where it intersected Highway 1, the primary north-south road that paralleled the coastline nearly the entire length of Vietnam / Highway 9 became a major part of the North Vietnamese infiltration route once they crossed into South Vietnam from the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail

## *Base Assignments:*

Great Lakes Training Center - home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy

## *Miscellaneous:*

Peter Bossman graduated from the West Seneca Central High School in 1962 and enlisted in the Navy in 1963 / Peter Robert Bossman was 21 years of age at the time of his passing

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Bossman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Peter Robert Bossman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 12

Hospitalmen (HM) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

One of the earliest helicopters employed in Southeast Asia, and the primary Marine Corps helicopter used during the early years of the war, was the Sikorsky UH34D Seahorse / This aircraft was already quite old when they arrived in the battle zone, however, both the US and South Vietnamese military found them to be extremely effective throughout the war

SNAVFORV (United States Naval Forces Vietnam) / During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Navy deployed various units to support operations in the region / One such unit was Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 363 (HM-363), which was part of Marine Air Group 16 / Their mission was to conduct mine countermeasures using helicopters, specifically the MH-53E Sea Dragon / These helicopters were designed to detect and neutralize naval mines, ensuring safe passage for ships and other naval vessels

Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-16 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force



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commanders / Marine Helicopter Transport Group 16 (MAG(HR)-16) was commissioned on 1 March 1952 at Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California / MAG-16 was the first helicopter group established in the Marine Corps

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

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A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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

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



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Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936 / The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" / The Navy Expeditionary Medal was retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874

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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOSSO, JR.**

**ANDREW**

**V.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** **1959**

**Year Discharged:** **1965**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Andrew Victor Bosso, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Andrew Bosso also served in the United States Naval Reserve until 1990

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Andrew Bosso was born in Niagara Falls and graduated from Bishop Duffy High School in 1958 / Bosso graduated from Niagara County Community College in 1971 / Moving to Buffalo, Andrew Bosso was a Computer Technician and was employed by the Merchants Mutual Insurance Company, Buffalo and the Marine Midland Bank, Buffalo prior to retiring in 1995 / Bosso became a School Bus Driver for the Niagara Wheatfield School District, retiring due to ill health in early 2010 / Andrew Victor Bosso, Jr. passed away on 22 May 2010 at the age of 69 years old and is interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lewiston, New York

The Navy Reserve is a branch of the United States Navy made up of qualified sailors who serve part-time while working in civilian jobs or attending school / Members of the Navy Reserve are categorized as being in either the Selected Reserve (SELRES), the Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR), the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), or the Retired Reserve / They provide invaluable expertise, experience, and leadership while delivering critical support to global operations and planning / The Navy Reserve provides strategic depth and delivers operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team in a range of military operations from peace to war



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOSWELL**

**DAVID H.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 52 SWINBURNE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** HN

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 2ND CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP B 1

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Hospitalman David Henry Boswell honorably served in the United States Navy / HN David Boswell was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman / HN David Boswell was Killed In Action on 6 March 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

HN David Boswell served in Vietnam with Combined Action Platoon Bravo-1 (CAP Bravo-1), 2nd Combined Action Group, Combined Action Program, Third Marine Amphibious Force / Hospitalman Boswell was killed while pulling wounded soldiers from the field

HN David Boswell was previously commended by his commanding officer for his role in treating 11 marines injured in a truck accident

Hospitalman Boswell joined the Navy Reserve in 1964 and went on active duty in April 1966 / HN Boswell was originally assigned to the boiler room on a destroyer and decided to switch to Hospitalman (Corpsman)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Boswell was a graduate of the Boys Vocational High School and School Number 4 / David Henry Boswell



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was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Henry Boswell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43e, Line 14

Hospitalmen (HN) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

2nd Civil Affairs Group (2nd CAG) is a civil affairs (CA) unit of the United States Marine Corps / It is based at Naval Support Facility Anacostia, Washington, D.C., and is part of the Force Headquarters Group of the Marine Forces Reserve / The unit was deactivated in June 2019 and turned into Marine Corps Advisor Company (MCAC) Alpha and Marine Corps Advisor Company Bravo

III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It is forward-deployed and able to rapidly conduct operations across the spectrum from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) to amphibious assault and high-intensity combat / The III Marine Amphibious Force's (MAF) area of operations was in the northern I Corps Tactical Zone in Vietnam / III MAF participated in the Vietnam War from May 1965 – April 1971 operating from Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai / The III Marine Amphibious Force maintains a forward presence in Japan and Asia to support the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan (1960) and other alliance relationships of the United States / III MEF also conducts combined operations and training throughout the region in support of the National Security Strategy for Theater Security Cooperation

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BOTH

HERBERT E.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Herbert E. Both honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Herbert Both was Past Commander of the American Legion Post #721 in South Buffalo / Herbert E. Both passed away on 11 March 2024 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOWEN**  
**KENNETH**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Kenneth Bowen honorably served in the United States Military / Kenneth Bowen was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOYER**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael Boyer honorably served in the United States Military / Michael Boyer was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOYLE**

**JOHN**

**P.**

**Hometown:** ELMA

**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:**

John P. "Jack" Boyle honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Boyle graduated from Bishop Timon High School in 1959 / Boyle worked as a Department Store Manager for Sibley's Department Store and then became a Real Estate Broker for Potter Real Estate and then Realty USA until his retirement in 2013 / John P. "Jack" Boyle passed away on 17 December 2025 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BOZER**

**EDWARD F.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Edward Francis Bozer honorably served in the United States Army / Edward Bozer underwent Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood / Bozer served in the Army Signal Corps and was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In 1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Bozer graduated from Williamsville Central High School, where he played football / Bozer graduated from the University of Buffalo, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Edward Bozer began a career in the Aerospace Industry, becoming a Program Manager on numerous projects that included pioneering work on advanced equipment for the Space Shuttle, commercial aviation and defense systems for the United States and allied forces / After his retirement, Bozer moved to Mesa, Arizona in 2012 / Edward Francis Bozer passed away on 24 November 2023 at the age of 85 years old

The United States Army Signal Corps was established in 1860 and was used in World War II to coordinate swift and accurate communication for air, ground, and naval units required more sophisticated technology and service



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

/The Signal Corps develops, tests, provides, and manages communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined arms forces / The Signal Corps pioneered in the development of radar to detect approaching aircraft as well as mobile communications and deciphering machines / In addition to its primary role in military transmissions, the unit also played a key role in producing training films for army and civilian personnel, and documenting combat missions / During World War II, noted Hollywood producers, directors, and photographers (such as Darryl Zanuck, Frank Capra, John Huston, and George Stevens) all served in the Signal Corps



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRACIAK  
JAMES

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant James Braciak honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT James Braciak was stationed at Cape Cod Air Force Station, Massachusetts

**Base Assignments:**

Cape Cod Air Force Station - Located in Flatrock Hill, Massachusetts, the facility's primary mission is controlling and maintaining the Raytheon AN/FPS-123 PAVE PAWS installation to track space debris, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles / Its secondary mission is tracking Earth-orbiting objects such as the International Space Station, any object that deviates from its known orbit, or any new orbiting objects.

**Miscellaneous:**

James Braciak was an accountant working for several firms, before joining Northrup Grumman until his retirement / On 1 April 2021, James Braciak passed away at the age of 75 years



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRADY

EDWARD P.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Edward Patrick "Eddie" Brady honorably served in the United States Air Force National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Brady graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School and was an outstanding football player / Brady managed Mulligan's Brick Bar, the Pierce Arrow Bar and Hemmingway's Bar / In 1990, Edward Brady opened Eddie Brady's Tavern / Edward Patrick "Eddie" Brady passed away at the age of 70 on 12 June 2022

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BRANDEN**  
**THOMAS C.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas C. Branden honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Thomas Branden started a career with the New York Telephone Company and Verizon before retiring / Thomas C. "Tom" Branden passed away on 28 March 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BRATEK**

**EUGENE J.**

**Hometown:** **BLASDELL**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Eugene J. Bratek honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Eugene J. Bratek passed away on 4 May 2025 at the age of 80 years old

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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:** **BRATEK**

**JAMES**

**F.**

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**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:**

James F. Bratek honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Bratek worked for Erie County and the Veterans Administration (VA) Buffalo Regional Office / Bratek was a member of American Legion Post #63 / James F. Bratek passed away on 18 May 2024 at the age of 76 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BRAWN**

**PAUL**

**R.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Paul R. Brawn honorably served in the United States Air Force / Paul Brawn was stationed in Libya and Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Brawn worked as a sheet metal mechanic at Ruslander and Sons / Paul R. Brawn passed away on 4 April 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BREIDENSTEIN

JOHN A.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

John A. Breidenstein honorably served in the United States Army / John Breidenstein was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John A. Breidenstein passed away on 12 January 2004 at the age of 56 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRENNAN

DENNIS H.

**Hometown:** GETZVILLE

**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:**

Dennis H. Brennan honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Dennis Brennan was deployed to Vietnam as a Corpsman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis H. Brennan passed away on 30 July 2022 and is interred at Marilla Cemetery, Marilla, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRENNAN

JAMES A.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class James A. Brennan honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C James Brennan attended Instructor School at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia / A1C Brennan was an Air-to-Air Missile Instructor

**Base Assignments:**

Langley Air Force Base, Virginia - Langley Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Hampton, Virginia, adjacent to Newport News / Langley Air Force Base, originally known as Langley Field, is named after Samuel Pierpont Langley, an aerodynamic pioneer and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution / It was one of thirty-two Air Service training camps established after the entry of the United States into World War I in April 1917 / The Air Force mission at Langley is to sustain the ability for fast global deployment and air superiority for the United States or allied armed forces / The base is one of the oldest facilities of the Air Force / On 25 May 1946 the headquarters of the newly formed Tactical Air Command were established at Langley / The command's mission was to organize, train, equip and maintain combat-ready forces capable of rapid deployment to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime air defense / The arrival of Tactical Air Command and jet aircraft marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the field, and in January 1948 Langley Field officially became Langley Air Force Base

**Miscellaneous:**

James Brennan graduated from Kensington High School and enlisted in the Air Force / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Brennan attended and graduated from Erie Community College and the University of Buffalo, earning a bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / James Brennan joined the Depew Police Force in 1970 and was appointed as a Detective in 1974, becoming a Patrol Lieutenant in 1977 and promoted to Captain in 1982 / In 1974 Brennan was promoted to Chief of Police, heading a department of 31 Police Officers and eight civilians / Brennan retired from the Depew Police Department in 2002 and became an



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Investigator for the US Treasury Department and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) until 2013  
/ James A. Brennan passed away on 2 June 2023 at the age of 79 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRESE

ANTHONY A.

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**Address:** 348 MARLOWE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Anthony Arthur Brese honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Anthony Brese was deployed to Vietnam on 9 March 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Brese died from non-hostile wounds on 26 December 1970 while serving on Firebase Bastogne (also known as Firebase Phu Xuan) in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

On 24 December 1970, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, moved off of Firebase (FSB) Bastogne for FSB Security in preparation for the 1970 Christmas cease fire / The battalion day report for 24 December shows that Bravo Company had also redeployed off the FSB to the southeast of Alpha Company / The relocation took place late in the day and the company quickly set up their night defense targets (Delta Tangos) coordinates before the 6:00 PM start of the 24 hour cease fire / At approximately 5:15 PM, a single friendly round of high explosive crashed into A Company's 2nd Platoon position where 19 soldiers had set up their night defensive position / Nine were killed and at least nine others were severely wounded / Medivacs were called in and the wounded were taken to the 85th Evacuation Hospital at Phu Bai / Three more soldiers would later succumb to their wounds, making the total 12 killed / Only one soldier was spared physical injury from the shrapnel, protected by a tree stump he was sitting behind when the round hit / The nine soldiers killed in the immediate aftermath of the blast were SP4 Paul J. D'Amato Jr., SP4 Gregory W. Felker, SP4 Larry Heen, CPL Calvin D. Mack, SP4 Thomas G. Noble, SGT Michael R. Nugent, CPL Vern E. Odom, CPL Wesley L. Phillips, and SP4 Steve Pohancek / The three other lost members of the platoon were SP4 Anthony A. Brese (died on



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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December 26th), CPL Kenneth W. Griffin (died on the 28th), and CPL Jaime Laboy (died January 8, 1971)

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Anthony Brese graduated from St. Francis Parochial School in Hamburg / Anthony Brese attended Buffalo State University and Canisius College before being drafted / Anthony Arthur Brese was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Anthony Arthur Brese is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 8

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry were deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965, where they were joined



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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by the rest of the division in late 1967 / In October 1968, the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson / The 327th Infantry Regiment has also been deployed in the Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRESE  
STANLEY

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:** 348 MARLOWE AVENUE

- 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:

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Stanley Brese honorably served in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea

The brother of Stanley Brese, Army Specialist Fourth-Class Anthony Arthur Brese, died from non-hostile wounds on 26 December 1970 while serving on Firebase Bastogne (also known as Firebase Phu Xuan) in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BRESS**  
**RONALD**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Ronald Bress honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, Ronald Bress started a career as a real estate broker starting with Kader Realty and later Metro Roberts Realty / Ronald Bress passed away on 20 December 2025 at the age of 83 years of age



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRETON

WILLIAM

K.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

William K. Breton honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Breton worked for various contractors as a laborer / William K. Breton Passed away on 29 July 2023 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery in Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRIGGS

DAVID I.

**Hometown:** NORTH COLLINS

**Address:** BRANT ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class David Ivan Briggs honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Briggs was deployed to Vietnam on 20 May 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 David Briggs was Killed In Action on 23 November 1968 by enemy small arms fire while engaged with hostile forces in Bo Loi Woods, Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

David Ivan Briggs was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Spirit Cemetery, North Collins, New York

David Ivan Briggs is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 38w, Line 40

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducts military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / After undergoing major reorganizations in 1957 and 1963 to adapt to changing tactics, the division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan / Its present deployment is composed of light infantry and aviation units / Tropic Lightning soldiers regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry (4/9) disembarked at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 29 April 1965 / Within days of landing, the 4/9 Infantry saw combat action in Cu Chi, Vietnam / Battalion-size operations conducted by the 4/9 Infantry included Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Helemano, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry / The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry served in Vietnam for four years and six months

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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:** BRODA

THADDEUS F.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

10TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS BAR

MARKSMAN BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: GRENADE

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Thaddeus Francis Broda honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Thaddeus Broda served as a Medical Corpsman in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Sam Houston, Texas - Fort Sam Houston is a U.S. Army post in San Antonio, Texas known as "Fort Sam," / It is named for the U.S. Senator from Texas, U.S. Representative from Tennessee, Tennessee and Texas Governor, and first President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston / Fort Sam Houston is known as the "Home of Army Medicine" and "Home of the Combat Medic" / At the end of World War II, the Army decided to make Fort Sam Houston the principal medical training facility

**Miscellaneous:**

Thaddeus F. Broda was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

The 10th Evacuation Hospital was reactivated 12 July 1967, at Fort Meade, Maryland / It was reorganized and redesignated as a Combat Support Hospital on 21 March 1973 / Reorganization as a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital On 16 August 1983 the unit was redesignated as the 10th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH)

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

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

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

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

The 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:** **BRODERICK**

**JOHN E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,  
2ND BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (2/27), 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant John E. "Jack" Broderick honorably served in the United States Army / SGT John Broderick was deployed to Vietnam for six months as a Wireman Team Chief from 1969 to 1970

Sergeant John Broderick was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 4 January 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Broderick retired from the Town of West Seneca Highway Department / Broderick was a member of many organizations including the Gaelic American Association of WNY, the Hoppers Social Club , American Legion Post #735 and Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 898 / John E. "Jack" Broderick passed away on 9 July 2019

In United States Army units, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is a company-sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within one company / In identifying a specific headquarters unit, it is usually referred to by its abbreviation as an HHC / While a regular line company is formed of three or four platoons, an HHC is made up of the headquarters staff and headquarters support personnel of a battalion, brigade, division, or higher level unit / The Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides command, staff, administrative, supply and maintenance, communication, engineer, and medical support for the battle group



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The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, "Wolfhounds," was first constituted on 2 February 1901 in the Regular Army as Company F, 26th Infantry / The unit was organized on 18 March 1901 at Fort McPherson, Georgia and redesignated on 29 May 1901 as Company B, 27th Infantry / The 27th Infantry saw extensive action in the Pacific theater during World War II and the ensuing occupation of Japan / in July 1950, the 27th Infantry departed for Pusan, Korea, to assist in holding the Pusan perimeter at the onset of the Korean conflict / The unit saw heavy action throughout the Korean conflict, earning 10 Campaign Streamers and 3 Presidential Unit Citations / Upon conclusion of hostilities in Korea, the unit returned to Schofield Barracks / The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry entered the Vietnam conflict in January 1966 / During their 5 year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned 2 valorous unit citations, and proved to be one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The 2-27th Infantry return to Hawaii in April 1971 and inactivated on 5 June 1972 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii / The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry was again activated on 16 August 1995 and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry carried 30 battle streamers and 12 unit citations on its colors

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BRODERICK**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** WALES

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

William Broderick honorably served in the United States Army / William Broderick was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Broderick is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rademacher VFW Post #5861

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

**Name:** **BRODNICKI**

**DAVID R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal David R. Brodnicki honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David R. Brodnicki was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers, Local 71, for more than 50 years / Brodnicki was an avid hunter and served as a youth soccer coach / David R. Brodnicki passed away at the age of 77 on December 19, 2020



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROGAN**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph Brogan honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Brogan was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROMSTEAD**

**JIM**

**R.**

**Hometown:** ELMA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1964

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST PROVISIONAL ARMORED MAINTENANCE DETACHMENT, SEVENTH US ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-1 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Jim R. Bromstead honorably served in the United States Army / SP-5 Jim Bromstead was assigned as a Armor Communication Specialist

Specialist Fifth-Class Jim Bromstead received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 11 February 1964

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jim Bronstead served as a Detective with the Erie County Sheriff's Department/ Bronstead was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #5260 in Springville, New York / Jim R. Bromstead passed away on 27 May 2022

The 7th Armored Division ("Lucky Seventh") was an armored division of the United States Army that saw distinguished service on the Western Front, from August 1944 until May 1945, during World War II / The division was reactivated in the early 1950s, but was not sent to Korea. It was stationed at Camp Roberts, California for the duration of the conflict

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 /



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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:** BRONOWSKI

LAWRENCE J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "A", 1/50 INFANTRY, 101ST AVN DIVISION

**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) Lawrence Joseph Bronowski honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Lawrence Bronowski was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence J. Bronowski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion -size air assault operations to seize terrain / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 / In 1971, elements of the division supported Operation Lam Son 719, the South Vietnamese invasion of southern Laos, but only aviation units actually entered Laos / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam it suffered 4,011 killed



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and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time, all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROOKS, SR.**

**RICHARD C.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

316TH FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, 316TH AIR WING

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class Richard C. Brooks, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C Richard Brooks was assigned as an Aircraft Electronics Navigation Equipment Repairman and served 11 months of active duty in Vietnam

A1C Richard C. Brooks was Honorably Discharged from from the US Air Force on 9 June 1967

**Base Assignments:**

Langley Air Force Base, Virginia - Langley Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Hampton, Virginia, adjacent to Newport News / Langley Air Force Base, originally known as Langley Field, is named after Samuel Pierpont Langley, an aerodynamic pioneer and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution / It was one of thirty-two Air Service training camps established after the entry of the United States into World War I in April 1917 / The Air Force mission at Langley is to sustain the ability for fast global deployment and air superiority for the United States or allied armed forces / The base is one of the oldest facilities of the Air Force / On 25 May 1946 the headquarters of the newly formed Tactical Air Command were established at Langley / The command's mission was to organize, train, equip and maintain combat-ready forces capable of rapid deployment to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime air defense / The arrival of Tactical Air Command and jet aircraft marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the field, and in January 1948 Langley Field officially became Langley Air Force Base

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Brooks was a long time Eucharistic Minister and President of the St. Philip's Men's Club / Richard C.



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Brooks, Sr. passed away on 25 June 2021 at the age of 78 years old

The 316th Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS) was a component of the 316th Fighter Wing while the Wing was at Langley AFB 1965-75

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

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROPHY**

**MARTIN**

**E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 302 ROESCH AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 41ST INFANTRY PLATOON SCOUT DOG

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Martin Earl Brophy honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Martin Brophy was deployed to Vietnam in December 1967 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SP4 Martin Brophy was Killed In Action on 5 May 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile action in Binh Duong province, South Vietnam

On 5 May 1968, the Viet Cong were in the second day of a new nation-wide offensive in which they shelled more than 120 targets across Vietnam / One of the locations that was hit was the base camp for the 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Enemy rockets killed six U.S. personnel, some while they were sleeping / The lost Americans at Lai Khe included dog handlers SP4 Martin E. Brophy and SSGT Juan P. Martinez, intelligence specialist SSGT Richard A. Brown, artilleryman SP4 William E. Shaffer, clerk-typist SP5 Howard J. Spear, and infantryman PFC Louis L. Speer

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Martin Brophy was born in Syracuse, New York / Brophy worked at the Chevrolet River Road Plant prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army / Martin Earl Brophy was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Martin Earl Brophy is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 55e, Line 4

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / 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 / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / 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 / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

The 41st Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was one of two Scout Dog platoons attached to the First Infantry Division

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

The 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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## January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWN**

**ANDREW T.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 129 DELAVAN AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (MAF), 3RD CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP 3 3 5

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Andrew Thomas Brown honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Andrew Brown was deployed to Vietnam on 8 July 1968 as a Mortarman / PVT Andrew Brown was Killed In Action on 16 September 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations action in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

The brother of Andrew Brown, Specialist Fifth-Class William Brown, also served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Andrew Brown moved to Buffalo in 1955 and graduated from Grover Cleveland High School in 1967 / Brown worked for a Jefferson Avenue grocery store before entering the Marine Corps / Andrew Thomas Brown was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Tylersburg Cemetery, Tylersburg, Pennsylvania

Andrew Thomas Brown is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43w, Line 2

A Mortarman is a soldier who operates a firing device called a mortar / Mortarmen in the U.S. Marines are the



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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unit that's mainly responsible for the tactical employment of the 60 mm light mortar and the 81 mm medium mortar

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

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

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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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The 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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWN**

**DANIEL J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE BATTALION, 2ND FSR FORCE TROOPS, 2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET  
MARINE FORCE ATLANTIC

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Daniel J. Brown honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Daniel Brown was deployed for 12 months of foreign service in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1970 - January 1971 and assigned as a Laundry Machine Operator / Private Brown's final assignment was Headquarters & Service Battalion, 2nd FSR Force Troops, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

PVT Daniel Brown was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 12 July 1972

**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:**

Daniel J. Brown passed away on 25 September 2022 at the age of 71 years old

Laundry Machine Operators operate commercial-type laundry washers, extractors, tumblers, or conditioners / Load, unload, and operate controls of machines to wash, dye, starch, roughdry, or condition items for pressing /



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Rotate machine duty, washers or dryers, on a basis determined by the shift leader / Weigh baskets on an industrial scale, annotating, and documenting the weight / Examine items to be processed by type/classification group, and size of load / Select the appropriate machine, control settings, and cleaning agents/chemicals / Determine and select the appropriate dryer settings / Document all loads processed on daily production record to include identification of unit, weight, time started and time completed / Perform preventative maintenance of equipment and report problems, malfunctions, and/or unsafe working conditions

The 2nd Marine Division (2nd MARDIV) is a division of the United States Marine Corps, which forms the ground combat element of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) / The division is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina / During World War II, the 2nd Marine Division (Headquarters) participated in operations in the Pacific Theater of Operations: the Guadalcanal Campaign, in the Solomon Islands campaign, the Battle of Tarawa, the Gilbert Islands campaign, the Battle of Saipan, the Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / The Division didn't take part in a major action again until 1958 when elements participated in the U.S. intervention into the Lebanon crisis of 1958 / 2nd Marine Division units helped to reinforce Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and landed in the Dominican Republic in 1965 as part of Operation Power Pack / Other peacekeeping operations carried on by the Division include being part of the Multi National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon from August 1982 until February 1984 / The Division suffered the loss of 238 Marines and Sailors during the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, plus 3 U.S. Army personnel attached to the unit

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

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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:** **BROWN**

**DAVID J.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

David J. Brown honorably served in the United States Navy / David Brown was deployed to Vietnam as a Pilot and Flight Instructor

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Brown was a retired Pilot (Captain) for American Airlines / Brown retired to Naples, Florida after his retirement / David J. Brown passed away on 3 November 2022 at the age of 79 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWN**  
DENNIS P.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Dennis P. Brown honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis P. Brown passed away on 10 August 2025 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWN**

**JOEL**

**A.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:** 64 KENNISON PARKWAY

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY A, 2ND BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 2ND INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Joel Andrew Brown honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Joel Brown was deployed to Vietnam on 10 October 1966 and served as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Joel Brown was Killed In Action on 10 March 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Private First-Class Joel Brown distinguished himself by exceptional valorous actions on 10 March 1967, while serving as a machine gunner on an armored personnel carrier near Prek Klok / Late at night, Private Brown's base camp came under heavy ground and mortar attack from a numerically superior Viet Cong force / PFC Brown continuously placed deadly accurate fire on the enemy, until thrown from the carrier by the explosion of a rocket round / Badly shaken, Brown braved withering fire to carry an unconscious comrade to safety and once again returned to the line / As the attack intensified, Private Brown detected an enemy rocket position and directed effective fire upon it, knocking it out / Blown from the carrier by a second rocket round and seriously wounded, he continued to ignore his personal safety and maintained his lethal fire in support of his unit's now mounting counteroffensive / As his unit directed its counterattack, Private Brown continued to inflict heavy casualties upon the enemy until a third rocket round hit his carrier's turret, mortally wounding him / PFC Joel Brown was Killed In Action on 10 March 1967, a ground casualty of multiple fragmentation wounds / PFC Brown was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously)



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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## *Base Assignments:*

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

## *Miscellaneous:*

Joel Brown was a 1963 graduate of Frontier High School / Brown was a former member of AFL-CIO Local 2603 / Joel Brown was inducted into the United States Army on 26 April 1966 / Joel Andrew Brown was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Joel Andrew Brown is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 16e, Line 51

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 2nd Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army that has served for more than two hundred years / It was constituted on 12 April 1808 as the 6th Infantry and consolidated with 4 other regiments in 1815 to form the present unit / The 2nd Battalion deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vũng Tàu in October 1965 and assigned to Lai Khe, Vietnam / The battalion initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon and on 2 January 1967, the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / During four and a half years the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bù Đốp (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Lộc, and An Lộc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / On 15 April 1970 the 2nd Battalion was inactivated

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / 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 / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / 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 / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) is the United States Army's second highest military decoration for soldiers who display extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force / Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations, but which do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor / The Distinguished Service Cross is only awarded for actions in combat / The Army Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Naval Services' Navy Cross, the Air and Space Forces' Air Force Cross, and the Coast Guard Cross. Prior to the creation of the Air Force Cross in 1960, airmen were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWN**

**RONALD**

**F.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ronald F. Brown honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald F. Brown passed away at the age of 75 on 29 April 2021

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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:** **BROWN**

**RONALD F.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Ronald F. Brown honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald F. Brown passed away on 29 April 2021 at the age of 75 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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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

**Name:** **BROWN**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 90 18TH STREET

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP5

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class William Brown honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam  
  
The brother of SP5 William Brown, Corporal Robert Joseph Brown, Jr., was Killed in Action in Vietnam on 22 July 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWN, JR.**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 90 18TH STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Robert Brown was deployed to Vietnam on 15 April 1970 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / Corporal Brown was Killed in Action on 22 July 1970 as a result of enemy rocket mortar fire during combat action on Hill 805, Firebase Ripcord, Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Brown was a graduate of Lafayette High School / Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, New York

Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08w, Line 41

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members



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The Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord was a 23-day battle between elements of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and two reinforced divisions of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) that took place from 1 to 23 July 1970 / It was the last major confrontation between United States ground forces and the PAVN during the Vietnam War / Three Medals of Honor and six Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to participants for actions during the operations

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 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



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

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

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

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

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

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

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



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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROWNING**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph Browning honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Browning was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BROZYNA**  
**LEON**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CW2

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1978

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M- 16)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Chief Warrant Officer Leon Brozyna honorably served in the United States Army / CW2 Leon Brozyna served in the Army for 20 years as a Telecommunication Specialist, including an 18 month tour of duty in Vietnam

Chief Warrant Officer Leon Brozyna was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 31 December 1988

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Leon Brozyna passed away on 3 January 2025 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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

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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

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:** BRUDZ

DANIEL J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS  
BRAVO COMPANY, 304TH SIGNAL BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Daniel John Brudz honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Daniel Brudz was deployed to South Korea for 16 months active duty and served as a Radio Relay and Carrier Attendant

SP4 Daniel Brudz received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 8 February 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel John Brudz passed away on 21 November 2020

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

The 304th Signal Battalion was constituted on 29 July 1921 and allotted to the IV Corps Area / It was organized



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in March 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia / In 1945, the 304th, with augmentation from the 2201st, operated the Army Signal Center for all operations in the Philippines controlled by the 8th Army / In 1950, during the Korean War, the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-Enhanced was deployed to the Republic of Korea / The unit's mission provided tactical communications support to United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea, Eighth Army, and non-DOD U.S. Government organizations within the Korean peninsula / The battalion is currently located at USAG Humphreys 45 miles south of Seoul / Serving proudly in the Republic of Korea since the start of the Korean War in 1950, the unit served in all ten campaigns of the war and received three Meritorious Unit Commendations / The battalion's motto is "Pret, Toujours Pret!" or "Ready, Always Ready!"

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:** **BRUSINO**  
**FRANK** **B.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** BG

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH BRIGADE, NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

**Medals / Citations:**

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MASTER PARACHUTIST BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

SPECIAL FORCES TAB

NYS MILITARY COMMENDATION MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Brigadier General Frank B. Brusino honorably served in the United States Army / The military career of BG Frank Brusino spanned ROTC years at Niagara University 1950-54 with active duty following his commission in Germany and stateside to 1957 / BG Frank Brusino joined the U.S. Army Reserve after serving his active duty in the regular Army / Brigadier General Frank Brusino completed many military schools including, 11th Airborne Basic and Advanced Airborne Course (Jumpmaster), Infantry Officer Advanced Course, US Army JFK Center, Special Warfare Course, US Army Counter-Insurgency Course, Command and General Staff College all during the 1950's and 1960's / BG Frank Brusino became the Battalion Commander of 19th Special Forces Group out of White Plains, New York / Brigadier General Frank B. Brusino retired in 1991, joining the NYS Army National Guard / During the 1990's, BG Brusino became commander of Headquarters 4th Brigade, New York National Guard, achieving the rank of Brigadier General

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units



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stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government

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 Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a special type of recognition for service members / The Army Commendation Medal is considered a "mid-level" military decoration / The commendation is generally awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / It's usually granted to U.S. Army personnel that are not general officers / All in all, there are Commendation Medals for each service branch (Army, Naval Service, Air and Space Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard)

The Army Achievement Medal (AAM) is the lesser of the U.S. military's meritorious service medals and was first introduced as a means to recognize the contributions of enlisted personnel and junior officers who were not qualified to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / Additional awards are denoted by oak leaf clusters

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 Master Parachutist Badge is a skill badge awarded by the US Army / It is an oxidized silver badge 1 13/64 inches in height and 1 1/2 inches in width, consisting of an open parachute on and over a pair of stylized wings displayed and curving inward / The badge requires 65 jumps, including 25 jumps with combat equipment, four night jumps, and graduation from a Jumpmaster course / The badge is awarded to individuals rated excellent in character and efficiency

The Special Forces Tab is a service school qualification tab of the United States Army / It is awarded to any soldier completing either the Special Forces Qualification Course or the Special Forces Detachment Officer Qualification Course at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina / Soldiers who are awarded the Special Forces Tab are authorized to wear it and the green beret for the remainder of their military careers, even when not serving in a Special Forces command

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 Military Commendation Medal is an award given to any member of the New York State Organized Militia who, while serving in any capacity, distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service / Awards may be made to individuals who are members of the Armed Forces of the United



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States, but only under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of The Adjutant General / The medal is blue and in the shape of a shield with the outline of New York state in the center in yellow and text reading "MILITARY" on the upper portion and "COMMENDATION" on the lower portion / The ribbon features a dark blue central section flanked on either side by a yellow stripe / The Medal for Merit is another award that may be given to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty

New York National Guard Long and Faithful Service Medal is an award of the state of New York / This is given to all Military personnel who have completed the specified periods of honorable and satisfactory active service in the New York Army National Guard, New York Naval Militia and New York Guard



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRUTCHER

RICHARD E.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard E. Brutcher honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Brutcher retired from General Motors after 30 years / Richard Brutcher was a past chief and member of the U-Crest Volunteer Fire Company for 48 years / Richard E. Brutcher passed away on 25 October 2024 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BRYDGES**

**THOMAS E.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Thomas E. Brydges honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Thomas Brydges was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Damstadt, Germany / Captain Brydges served the sixth year of his U.S. Army enlistment, deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

Fort Sill, Oklahoma - Fort Sill is a United States Army post north of Lawton, Oklahoma, about 85 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. It covers almost 94,000 acres / The fort was first built in 1869 during the Indian Wars and was home to the 7th Cavalry, the 19th Kansas Volunteers and the 10th Cavalry, a distinguished group of black "buffalo soldiers" / It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and serves as home of the United



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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 Field Artillery Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / It has played a significant role in every major American conflict since 1869

Darmstadt, Germany - USAG (United States Army Garrison) Darmstadt is located in the Hessa province from the southwestern part of Germany and was the headquarters for the 233d Base Support Battalion (BSB) / The military base used to host the headquarters of the US Army Garrison / The site includes three camps: Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne, the KB – Kelley Barracks – and the NHD – Nathan Hale Depot / The base was inactivated since 2008 and is no longer has any military purposes site

### *Miscellaneous:*

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Thomas Brydges enrolled at Syracuse University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree and Juris Doctor Degree / Brydges went to work for Jaeckle Fleischmann and Mugel as a Labor Attorney, retiring in 2016 after 43 years of employment / Brydges was an active volunteer for the American Red Cross / Thomas Brydges assisted at the Military Entrance Processing Center in Niagara Falls and served as a Trustee on the boards of the Earl W. Brydges Artpark, Daemen College and the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site / Thomas E. Brydges passed away on 14 December 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRYK

DAVID E.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** 1957

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS INTREPID (CV-11)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

David E. Bryk honorably served in the United States Navy / David Bryk served aboard the USS Intrepid (CV-11), an Essex Class Aircraft Carrier as an Ordnance Specialist for 23 months

David Bryk received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy on 31 October 1957 with reserve obligation ending 25 August 1962

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia - Naval Air Station is located in Virginia Beach, Virginia / It is the sole east coast master jet base in the entire US Navy / The air station supports the operations of the US Navy's Atlantic and Pacific Fleet strike fighter aircraft / It has a total of 250 aircraft deployed and buildings valued at \$800 million in plant replacement value / The base has about 10,500 active Navy personnel, about 10,000 family members and 4,500 civilian personnel

**Miscellaneous:**

David Byrk was employed as a Pressman at Holling Press before moving on to the Courier-Express and later The Buffalo News / Byrk went to work at Tops Markets, in the Security and Transportation Department, until his retirement in 2010 / David E. Byrk passed away on 3 March 2025

Aviation Ordnancemen (AO) are weapons specialists charged with managing all types of ammunition carried on Navy aircraft / Navy AOs perform their duties at sea on flight decks and ashore in hangars, air station flight lines or in shops

USS Intrepid (CV/CVA/CVS-11), also known as The Fighting "I", is one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built



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during World War II for the United States Navy / She is the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name / Commissioned in August 1943, Intrepid participated in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, including the Battle of Leyte Gulf / Decommissioned shortly after the end of World War II, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), and then eventually became an antisubmarine carrier (CVS) / In her second career, she served mainly in the Atlantic, but also participated in the Vietnam War / She was the recovery ship for a Mercury and a Gemini space mission / Because of her prominent role in battle, she was nicknamed "the Fighting I", while her frequent bad luck and time spent in dry dock for repairs, she was torpedoed once and hit in separate attacks by four Japanese kamikaze aircraft, earned her the nicknames "Decrepit" and "the Dry I" / Decommissioned for the second time in 1974, she was put into service as a museum ship in 1982 as the foundation of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex in New York City



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRZEZICKI

JAMES R.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

James Richard Brzezicki honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Brzezicki retired from General Motors / James Richard Brzezicki passed away on 16 July 2025



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**Name:** BRZEZICKI, JR.

JOHN

M.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

John M. Brzezicki, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / John Brzezicki served in the Army as an Optometrist

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Brzezecki graduated from the Ohio State University's School of Optometry / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Dr. Brzezicki opened an optometry practice that he owned and operated for decades until his retirement in 1979 / Dr. John Brzezicki was a longtime member of the Lions Club and a members of the Queen City Jazz Society / Dr. John M. Brzezicki, Jr. passed away on 14 February 2026 at the age of 90 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BRZYSKI

STANLEY T.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Stanley Thomas Brzyski honorably served in the United States Air Force / Stanley Brzyski was stationed in Okinawa, Japan

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stanley Brzyski attended Depew High School from 1959-1962 / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Stanley Brzyski went to work for the Ford Motor Company in 1969 as a Machine Operator and retired in 1999 after thirty years of employment / Brzyski moved to Ponte Vedra, Florida after his retirement / Stanley Thomas Brzyski passed away on 22 August 2024 at the age of 81 years old



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**Name:** **BUCHHOLZ**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph "Joe" Buchholz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Buchholz was a member of U.A. Steamfitters and Plumbers Local 22 for over 30 years / Joseph "Joe" Buchholz passed away on 28 October 2022 at the age of 74 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUCHNER**

**JAMES I.**

**Hometown:** DERBY

**Address:** 6865 ERIE ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class James Irving Buchner honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 James Buchner was deployed to Vietnam on 22 August 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 James Buchner was Killed In Action on 23 January 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Kontum province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Buchner was a graduate of Lake Shore High School / Prior to entering the U.S. Army, Buchner worked at the family-owned Woodbine Tavern in Derby and at Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / James Irving Buchner was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

James Irving Buchner is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35e, Line 14

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but



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possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 4th Infantry Division is a division of the United States Army based at Fort Carson, Colorado / The division was first activated in 1917 and has served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom1 / The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry is a battalion of the United States Army and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado

The 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / Three 12th Infantry battalions deployed to South Vietnam with the 4th Division from August through October 1966 / The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was assigned, set up base camp at Dau Tieng in III Corps while the rest of the 4th Division was assigned to the Central Highlands in II Corps alongside the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division which had arrived in December 1965 / The 1st and 3rd Battalions returned in December 1970 with the 4th Division to Fort Carson, Colorado / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism

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

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

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

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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges /



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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUCIERKA**  
**RAYMOND**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Raymond Bucierka honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond Bucierka retired from the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority (NFTA) Metro Rail / Raymond Bucierka passed away on 22 April 2024 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had



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redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

**Name:** **BUCOLO**

**MICHAEL M.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John Michael Bucolo honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Bucolo retired from the United States Postal Service / John Michael Bucolo passed away on 15 December 2025 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUCZEK**

**JOSPEH**

**P.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** RIDGE ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph P. Buczek honorably served in the United States Army / Josph Buczek was deployed to Clu Lia, Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Chu Lai Base Area is a former U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) base in Chu Lai in central Vietnam / The base was located on the Kỳ Hà peninsula north of Highway 1 approximately 37 miles southeast of Da Nang

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Buczek was a retiree from the GM Powertrain Plant and a member of UAW #774 / Joseph P. Buczek passed away on 22 September 2019 at the age of 70 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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

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

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:** **BUCZKOWSKI**

**THOMAS F.**

**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:**

Thomas F. Buczkowski honorably served in the United States Army / Thomas Buczkowski was deployed to Vietnam as a Military Policeman (MP)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Buczkowski graduated from St. Francis High School prior to being drafted in the Army / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Thomas Buczkowski continued in a career of Law Enforcement for over 35 years / Buczkowski served as an Active Trustee and Judge in the Village of Silver Creek / Thomas F. Buczkowski passed away on 20 November 2024 at the age of 77 years old

The United States Army Military Police Corps (USAMPC) is the uniformed law enforcement branch of the United States Army / Investigations are conducted by Military Police Investigators under the Provost Marshal General's Office or Special Agents of the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) / United States Army Military Police units have combat zone responsibilities in addition to their law enforcement duties / These responsibilities include mounted and dismounted patrols, response force operations, area damage control, route reconnaissance, cordon and search operations, critical site security, and convoy and personnel escorts / Operationally, these duties fall under the "security and mobility support" discipline of the Military Police Corps



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUDIMIROVICH**  
**JOEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Joel Budimirovich honorably served in the United States Military / Joel Budimirovich was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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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:** **BUDNEY**  
**RONALD T.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Ronald T. Budney honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUETTNER**

**JAMES**

**P.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1972

**Year Discharged:** 1975

**Unit / Squadron:**

82ND AIRBORNE

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James P. Buettner honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Buettner went to work for Arcada Graphics after his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, retiring after 35 years of employment / James P. Buettner passed away at the age of 71 years old on 10 February 2023

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into denied areas with a U.S. Department of Defense requirement to "respond to crisis contingencies anywhere in the world within 18 hours" / Based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was constituted, originally as the 82nd Division, in the National Army on 5 August 1917, shortly after the American entry into World War I / It was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Huế – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months / While the 3rd



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Brigade was deployed, the division created a provisional 4th Brigade, consisting of 4th Battalion, 325th Infantry; 3d Battalion, 504th Infantry; and 3d Battalion, 505th Infantry / An additional unit, the 3d Battalion, 320th Artillery, was activated under Division Artillery to support the 4th Brigade



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUGELSKI**

**PAUL J.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:** **CMDR**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS TAUSSIG (DD-746)

USS FORT SNELLING (LSD-30)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Commander Paul Joseph Bugelski honorably served in the United States Navy / CMDR Paul Bugelski was commissioned in June 1969 as part of the Naval Academy Class of 1969, Ninth Company / CMDR Bugelski served aboard the USS Taussig and the USS Fort Snelling / Commander Bugelski served land duty at Newport, Rhode Island and at the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Station Newport (NAVSTA Newport) is a United States Navy base located in the city of Newport and the town of Middletown, Rhode Island / Naval Station Newport is home to the Naval War College and the Naval Justice School / The Newport Training Station was founded in 1883 and was intended to provide education for young men and boys for a ten month period / Naval Station Newport hosts approximately 50 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US Army Reserve commands and activities; it is one of the Navy's most important stateside training facilities and includes Officer Training School

Brooklyn Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York - The Brooklyn Navy Yard (originally known as the New York Navy Yard) is a shipyard and industrial complex in northwest Brooklyn in New York City, New York / The Brooklyn Navy Yard was established in 1801 / From the early 1810s through the 1960s, it was an active shipyard for the United States Navy, and was also known as the United States Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn and New York Naval Shipyard at various points in its history / The Brooklyn Navy Yard produced wooden ships for the U.S. Navy through the 1870s / The shipyard built the USS Monitor, the Navy's first ironclad warship, in 1862, and it transitioned to producing iron vessels after the American Civil War in the mid-1860s / It produced some of the Navy's last pre-dreadnought battleships just prior to World War I, and it performed major repairs and overhauls of its dreadnought and post-dreadnought battleships during World War II / The efforts of its 75,000 workers during



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World War II earned the yard the nickname "The Can-Do Shipyard" / The Navy Yard was deactivated as a military installation in 1966, but continued to be used by private industries / The facility now houses an industrial and commercial complex run by the New York City government, both related to shipping repairs and maintenance and as office and manufacturing space for non-maritime industries

## *Miscellaneous:*

Paul Joseph Bugelski passed away on 18 September 2022 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

USS Taussig (DD-746) was an American Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer. It was named for Edward D. Taussig, a rear admiral of the United States Navy whose career spanned over 50 years / Adm. Taussig is remembered for claiming Wake Island for the United States on 17 January 1899 while commanding the gunboat Bennington and for accepting the physical relinquishment of Guam from Spain, ending 300 years of Spanish colonial rule / The USS Taussig was commissioned on 20 May 1944 and conducted a five-week shakedown cruise near Bermuda / In October 1944, the Taussig joined the Pacific Fleet and searched the area just off the Philippines for pilots downed in sweeps of the archipelago during the Leyte invasion / In February 1945, the Taussig screened Task Group 58.1 (TG 58.1) as it headed north to participate in the first carrier-based aerial attack on the Japanese home islands since the Doolittle raid of April 1942 / In April 1945, the Taussig supported the invasion of Okinawa by screening the aircraft carriers from Japanese submarines and planes / On the night of 15 and 16 April 1945, Taussig gunners brought down two bombers and, the following day, claimed credit for downing two suicide planes as well as for assisting in the destruction of a Yokosuka P1Y "Frances" finished off by a combat air patrol / Taussig remained in the Far East until shortly after the formal surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945 / In October 1945, she returned to the United States / In June 1950, with the outbreak of the Korean War, the Taussig saw duty in the Sea of Japan screening TF 77 carriers while their planes joined South Korean ground forces in an attempt to stem the communist tide / Taussig joined the United Nations Blockading and Escort Force, TF 95, off Korea on 20 September 1950 / During ensuing operations with that force until 2 October 1950, the destroyer visited Pusan and conducted shore bombardments near the Han River and near Songjin, Korea / Taussig began her last tour of combat duty of the deployment on 7 February 1952 / For the remainder of this assignment, she screened TF 77 while the carriers conducted air operations / On 24 April 1952, the destroyer completed her second Korean War deployment in the Orient and headed back to the United States In 1965, the warship saw her first tour of duty off the coast of Vietnam, where civil strife was growing steadily in intensity / On 1 June 1965, she took up station off the coast of Vietnam to provide naval gunfire support for operations ashore / From then until early October 1965, Taussig alternated naval gunfire support with plane guard duty for the Task Force on the southern SAR station off Vietnam / On 1 December 1970, Taussig was placed out of commission at San Diego and berthed with the San Diego Group, Pacific Reserve Fleet / On 1 September 1973, Taussig was struck from the Navy List and on 6 May 1974, the USS Taussig was sold to Taiwan / On 26 May 1975, the Republic of China commissioned the ship as ROCS Lo Yang (DD-14) / She was decommissioned on 15 February 2000 and sold and scrapped in November 2013 / The bow of the ship is on display at the Taipei Navy Command Headquarters / The USS Taussig earned six battle stars during World War II, eight battle stars during the Korean War, and six battle stars during the Vietnam War

USS Fort Snelling has been assigned to two dock landing ships of the United States Navy, in honor of Fort Snelling, a fort at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, for many years the northernmost military post in the land of the Sioux and Chippewa / The name Fort Snelling was assigned to LSD-23, a Casa



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Grande-class dock landing ship in 1944 but construction was canceled in 1945, due to the end of World War II / The second USS Fort Snelling (LSD-30), a Thomaston-class dock landing ship, was commissioned on 24 January 1955 / The USS Fort Snelling was homeported at Little Creek, Virginia and spent her entire service career as an East Coast "Gator Freighter" / Fort Snelling routinely deployed to the Caribbean and Mediterranean, as well as contingency operations in Beirut, the Dominican Republic, the search for the lost atomic bomb off of Palomares, Spain and the Invasion of Grenada / USS Fort Snelling served her country for 29 years, 8 months and 4 days, until decommissioned on 28 September 1984 and transferred to the Maritime Administration on 7 September 1989 / Her name was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 24 February 1992 and she was sold for scrap on 25 August 1995



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUGMAN, JR.**

**ROBERT E.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Robert E. Bugman, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Bugman was a member of the Union Branch #3 of the Letter Carriers of America / Bugman was inducted into the W.N.Y. Fast Pitch and the Figure 8 Hall of Fame / Robert E. Bugman, Jr. passed away on 18 October 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUKOLT**

**THOMAS**

**D.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas D. Bukolt honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas D. Bukolt passed away on 23 February 2025 at the age of 77 years old

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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:** BUKOWSKI

JOHN L.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

John L. Bukowski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Bukowski was a member of the American Legion Post #0721 in South Buffalo / Bukowski worked for Republic Steel / John L. Bukowski passed away on 13 April 2020



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURGER**

**CARL**

**R.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Carl R. Burger honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Carl Burger was deployed for 18 months of foreign duty, including Vietnam where he served as an Aircraft Hydraulic/Pneumatic Mechanic / Sergeant Burger also was assigned stateside service in Memphis, Cherry Point, San Francisco and Quantico

SGT Carl Burger was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 7 September 1973

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia - Commonly abbreviated MCB Quantico, Marine Corps Base Quantico is a United States Marine Corps installation located near Triangle, Virginia, covering nearly 86.169 square miles) of southern Prince William County, Virginia, northern Stafford County, and southeastern Fauquier County / Used primarily for training purposes, MCB Quantico is known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps" / In 1917, Marine Barracks, Quantico was established and thousands of Marines were trained at Quantico during World War I / In 1934, Amphibious Warfare Doctrine, along with special amphibious landing crafts for World War II were developed at Quantico / These Amphibious Warfare techniques, developed in the years before World War II, made victory possible in the Pacific theater / Quantico trained over 15,000 USMC and other service officers in Amphibious Warfare techniques / The first Marine Aircraft Wing was developed at Quantico, as well as the Corps' first helicopter squadron, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), the first helicopter squadron to provide rapid transportation for Presidents of the United States ("Marine One")

Marine Corps Air Station 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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:*

Carl R. Burger passed away on 24 June 2022 at the age of 72 years old

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURGIO**  
**ARNOLD J.**

**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:**

Arnold J. Burgio honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Arnold Burgio was a member of American Legion B. Leo Dolan Post #410 / Arnold J. Burgio passed away on 28 March 2024 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURK**

**RICHARD G.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**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:**

Richard G. Burk honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Burk was active with the Niagara Frontier Travelers and the Western New York Winnies (Winnebago owner Camping Club) / Richard G. Burk passed away on 2 June 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURKE**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

41ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS (2)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael Burke honorably served in the United States Army / Michael Burke was deployed to Vietnam

Michael Burke received his High School diploma from Kenmore East High School at the age of 71 years old / Michael Burke was a Ken-Ton student in the 1950s and 1960s, attending the former Brighton Elementary, Franklin Middle (then Franklin Junior High School) then Kenmore East High School / He did not complete his high school education and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969 at the age of 18 / He served from 1969 to 1973 at the height of the Vietnam War

Operation Recognition is a New York State program that allows school districts to award a high school diploma to those who left school early and served in the U.S. Armed Forces in recognition of their devotion and sacrifice

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Burke has a rare disease affecting his nerves and muscles and resides at the Batavia, New York VA



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## Medical Center

The 41st Transportation Company (PLS) was first constituted on 1 May 1936 in the Regular Army as Company C, 1st Battalion, 49th Quartermaster Regiment / It was later activated on 1 April 1942 at Berkeley, California, as Company C, 1st Battalion, 49th Quartermaster Truck Regiment / The unit has a long history and has been reassigned multiple times, including during World War II and in Grafenwoehr, Germany

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BURNS

JAMES E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND PLATOON, COMPANY H, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION,  
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

1ST MARINE DIVISION, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class James Edward Burns honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James Burns was deployed to Vietnam on 10 October 1967 as a Machine Gunner / PFC James Burns was Killed In Action on 7 December 1967 from an explosive device while fighting hostile forces in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

PFC James E. Burns and LCPL David L. Zywicke were members of 2nd Platoon, H Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines / On 7 December 1967, they were killed in an attack on their overnight position during a combat patrol, possibly from a claymore mine had been set off / This blast was immediately followed by a series of more explosions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Burns was born in Ocean Springs, Mississippi before moving to Buffalo / James Burns graduated from School #52 and attended McKinley Vocational High School / Burns enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 5 April 1967 / James Edward Burns was 18 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Fontainebleau Baptist Cemetery, Ocean Springs, Mississippi



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

James Edward Burns is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 57

\  
Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horn on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operation

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

**Name:** BURNS

LEE

D.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**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:**

Lee D. Burns honorably served in the United States Army / Lee Burns was deployed to Vietnam from 1964 to 1965

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lee D. Burns passed away on 16 December 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BURNS JR.

JOHN J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 11 COBURG STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 502ND INFANTRY, E COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class John James Burns, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Burns served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 John Burns, Jr. was Killed In Action on 11 February 1970 during a mortar attack on Fire Base Rifle, 40 miles northwest of Danang, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Burns graduated in 1963 from St. Joseph Collegiate Institute where he was a member of the Track Team / Burns was a 1967 graduate of Canisius College and was a member of the Track Team and the Cross Country Team and also coached the basketball team during his senior year / John Burns attended graduate school for a year at the University of Massachusetts and was an examiner-trainee for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. before being drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1968 / John James Burns, Jr. was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

John James Burns, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 124

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry



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units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 502nd Infantry Regiment (502nd IR), previously titled the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (502nd PIR), is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment was established shortly after U.S. entry into World War II, and was assigned as a regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / "The Screaming Eagles", one of the most decorated formations of the U.S. Army / The regiment saw substantial action in the European Theater of World War II and was inactivated in 1945, shortly after the end of the war / Reactivating in a new form in 1956, the 502nd Infantry has served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq / The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was deployed to South Vietnam in April 1965 and left Vietnam in December 1971 / Since 1974, the regiment has been classified as an Air Assault unit

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

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

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

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

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURROUGHS JR**  
**JUDGE**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Judge Burroughs, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Judge Burroughs was deployed to Vietnam on 12 March 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Judge Burroughs was Killed In Action on 8 August 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile action at LZ (landing zone) Juliet, Pleiku province, South Vietnam

On 2 August 1966, Operation Paul Revere II was a continuing mission, beginning in May 1966, to interdict North Vietnamese Army (NVA) infiltration and supply routes in the Pleiku and Kontum Provinces / From 2 August to 7 August, efforts centered on finding the enemy / The enemy was reportedly in the area, but most of the sightings and contacts were of individuals and small groups / Shortly after noon on 8 August, A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, made contact with a large enemy force near Landing Zone Juliet / The 3rd Platoon was on point and made the initial contact with the NVA / They aggressively pursued and were immediately hit by several enemy heavy and light machine guns, cutting them off from the rest of the company / Most of the 3rd Platoon was able to exfiltrate back to the A Company perimeter, where the company found itself under very heavy attack / The Americans at Juliet withstood mass assaults for several hours / An attempt to encircle the company was beaten back by heavy artillery and Tactical (TAC) Air Support / Cannon fire from Charlie Battery, Division Artillery delivered 1408 high-explosive rounds in two hours, which reportedly eliminated 98 NVA / When the roar of helicopters from two companies from the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, was heard arriving to reinforce LZ Juliet, the enemy broke contact, leaving 106 of their dead / The enemy was pursued until contact



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

was lost after dark / The United States paid a high price in the engagement: 25 dead and 36 more wounded / The lost troopers included SP4 Clifton E. Bennett, SP4 Judge Burroughs Jr., PFC Orrie J. Buskey, PFC Brian J. Clune, PSGT Melvin F. Floyd, PFC Charles R. Greene, PFC David C. Hampton, SSGT Martis L. Haynes, PFC Douglas W. Jones, PFC George E. Matuscsak, PFC Mark E. Parker, SP4 Derek B. Pope, PFC Richard W. Power, SP4 Charles R. Powers, SP4 Richard W. Roy, SP4 Donald A. Sherrod, PFC John H. Shetters, PFC Frederick Stafford, PFC Bradley H. Tate, PFC David L. Thorpe, PFC Jack A. Welch, PFC Donald L. Corbin, SP4 John J. Kolz, PFC Alfredo Ostolaza-Maldonado, and SMAJ Richard A. Schaaf

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Judge Burroughs, Jr. was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Pine Hill Cemetery, Bessemer, Alabama

Judge Burroughs, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09e, Line 111

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men



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earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURZYNSKI, SR.**

**KENNETH D.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: ( M-14 )

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Kenneth D. Burzynski, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Kenneth Burzynski was deployed to Vietnam for 13 months as a Inventory Management Specialist, attached to 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division

Kenneth Burzynski was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps at Air Station El Toro, Santa Ana, California on 23 October 1969

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Corps Air Station El Toro was a United States Marine Corps Air Station located next to the community of El Toro, California and was then adjacent to the city of Irvine / Before it was decommissioned in 1999, it was the 4,682-acre home of Marine Corps Aviation on the West Coast / Designated as a Master Jet Base, its four runways (two of 8,000 feet and two of 10,000 feet) could handle the largest aircraft in the U.S. military inventory / While it was active, all U.S. Presidents in the post-World War II era landed in Air Force One at this airfield / The El Toro "Flying Bull" patch was designed by Walt Disney Studios in 1944 / It survived virtually unchanged until the close of the Air Station

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth Burzynski joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17 years old / Kenneth D. Burzynski, Sr. passed away on 22 March 2025 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Ridge Lawn Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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The 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion (3rd Recon) conducts amphibious and ground reconnaissance in support of the 3rd Marine Division and Marine Forces Pacific (MarForPac), operating in the commander's areas of influence / The Battalion is based out of Camp Schwab, a satellite base of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler / The 3rd Recon Battalion consists of approximately 450 Marines and Fleet Marine Force sailors that falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force / The first U.S. combat units that landed during the Vietnam War were Marine units / On 8 March 1965 the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at Red Beach, Da Nang to secure Da Nang Air Base and establish an effective beachhead / Within the original landing force, a platoon from Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion attached to Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines became the first division reconnaissance element to be "resident" in South Vietnam / On 4 June 1969, the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion lost an entire 6 man recon team, call sign "Flight Time" / No other full team was lost during the remaining six years of the Vietnam War / The last elements of the battalion left South Vietnam on 20 November 1969

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

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

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

The Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon is awarded to Navy and Marine Corps units that distinguish themselves through feats of valor in combat or exceptional service in non-combat circumstances / It is given for outstanding heroism in combat against a hostile foreign force or for extremely meritorious service / The award is comparable to the Bronze Star for individual actions / It is distinct from the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon



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and is awarded by SECNAV, CNO, or CMC

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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:** BUTKA

GERALD J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Gerald Butka honorably served in the United States Military / Gerald Butka was deployed to Vietnam

**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:** BUTKA  
JOSEPH

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph Butka honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Butka was deployed to Vietnam

**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:** BUTLAK  
JAN

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Jan Butlak honorably served in the United States Military / Jan Butlak was deployed to Vietnam

**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:** BUTLAK  
PAUL

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Paul Butlak honorably served in the United States Navy / Paul Butlak was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Butlak attended Canisius College and graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in Civil Engineering / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Paul Butlak worked as a Civil Engineer in western New York, then in the Washington, DC area / After his retirement, Butlak moved to Mountain Island Lake, North Carolina / Paul Butlak passed away on 1 November 2024 at the age of 81 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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**Name:** BUTLER

RICHARD

A.

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Richard A. Butler honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard A. Butler passed away on 15 January 2025 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BUTRYN**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael Butryn honorably served in the United States Military / Michael Butryn was deployed to Vietnam

**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:** **BUTTON**

**HOWARD E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SFC

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

"A" COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBOURNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant First-Class Howard Earl Button honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Howard Button was deployed to Vietnam on 2 December 1967 as an Infantryman / SFC Howard Button was Killed In Action on 31 January 1968 as a result of combat operations in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Howard Earl Button had served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 - 1954, serving on the USS Toledo and the USS Albuquerque / In 1954, Button joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 101st Airborne Division

This was the second tour of Vietnam for SFC Howard Button, with his first deployment in 1965-1966

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky-Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

## *Miscellaneous:*

Howard Button was born in Portville, New York / Howard Button left Olean High School in 1951 to join the Navy / Howard Earl Button was 33 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hill Crest Memorial Cemetery, Paris, Tennessee

Howard Earl Button is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35e, Line 89

Infantry refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 1972

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had



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redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

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

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

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

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

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

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The



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

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BYKOWICZ**  
**ARTHUR P.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-5

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

59TH ORDINANCE COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Arthur Paul Bykowicz honorably served in the United States Army / SP-5 Arthur Bykowicz was assigned as a General Warehouseman and was deployed to Vietnam for 7 months and attached to the 59th Ordinance Company at Cam Rahn Bay

Arthur Bykowicz was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 28 March 1966

**Base Assignments:**

Cam Ranh Air Force Base is located on Cam Ranh Bay in Khánh Hòa province, Vietnam / It was one of several air bases built and used by the United States Air Force (USAF) during the Vietnam War / Cam Ranh Air Force Base was part of the large Cam Ranh Bay logistics facility built by the United States / It was the major military seaport used by the United States for the offloading of supplies, military equipment and as a major Naval base / Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force units all had compounds and units assigned to the Cam Ranh Bay facility from its opening in 1965 until its closure in 1972 as part of the drawdown of United States military forces in South Vietnam

**Miscellaneous:**

Arthur Bykowicz was a truck driver for Roadway Express / Arthur Paul Bykowicz passed away on 27 September 2025 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission is to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility materiel during peace and war to



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provide combat power to the U.S. Army

The 59th Ordnance Brigade consists of a HQ, S-staff, Chaplain, HHC, and three battalions: 16th Ordnance Battalion and 832nd Ordnance Battalion, located at Fort Lee, Virginia, 73rd Ordnance Battalion located at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and two Ordnance Training Detachments located at Fort Gordon, Georgia., and Fort Sill, Oklahoma / The 59th Ordnance Brigade leads, trains, develops, and educates Soldiers into adaptive Professional Ordnance Soldiers who will directly build and maintain Army readiness / The 59th provides the Army with Soldiers who are world-class maintainers, ammunition supply specialists, and EOD technicians who are prepared to perform and survive during tactical engagements in an asymmetric battlefield / Develops relevant and responsive training to counter ever-evolving enemy strategies and tactics

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BZIBZIAK**

**JOHN**

**S.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 BRONZE STARS

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (.45 CAL. PISTOL)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal John S. Bzibziak honorably served in the United States Army / CPL John Bzibziak was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Bzibziak worked for the Ford Motor Stamping Plant Stamping Plant in Blasdell, New York, retiring as a Production Laborer / John S. Bzibziak passed away on 19 February 2023 at the age of 74 years old

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

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