



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **EADIE**

D.

D.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

D. Douglas Eadie honorably served in the United States Army / D. Douglas Eadie was deployed to Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service during combat operations

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

D. Eadie was a 1963 graduate of Tonawanda High School and a 1967 graduate of Alfred University / Eadie was employed by Service Office Supply in Amherst for 35 years until his retirement / Active in Scouting, D. Eadie was a Scout Master, District Chairman and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award / Eadie was Past Master of Lockport Lodge 73 F & AM / D. Douglas Eadie passed away on 2 February 2026 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

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 / 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 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:** EASTON, JR.

ERVIN E.

**Hometown:** AKRON

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 1 BRONZE SERVICE STAR  
 2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS  
 GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 1960 DEVICE  
 NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Ervin E. Easton, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Ervin Easton was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months and assigned as an Auto Repairman Parts Specialist

Ervin Easton received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 7 March 1973, with reserve obligation terminated on 26 February 1976

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Riley, Kansas – Ft. Riley is a United States Army installation located in North Central Kansas, on the Kansas River / The Fort Riley Military Reservation covers 101,733 acres in Geary and Riley counties / The Fort consists of six functional areas, including the Main Post, Camp Funston, Marshall Army Airfield (MAAF), Camp Whitside, Camp Forsyth, and Custer Hill / In January 1853 a fort was constructed to organize, train, and equip troops to protect the overland trails / The site was named Camp Center because surveyors believed it was near the center of the United States / On 27 June 1853, Camp Center became Fort Riley, named in honor of Major General Bennet C. Riley, who had led the first military escort along the Santa Fe Trail in 1829 / During the Civil War, the fort was used to house Confederate prisoners / In 1919, the 2nd cavalry regiment was created, which provided the training and cavalry tactics to new cavalry officers / The 9th Armored Division was organized at Ft. Riley in July 1942, and after its deployment, Camp Funston was used as a German prisoner of war camp / The invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces in June 1950 once again brought attention to Fort Riley as an important training facility / Over the next few years, recruits from all over the United States came to Fort Riley and received basic training / In 1955, the fort's utilization changed from training and educational center to that of being the



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home base for a major infantry division, the 1st Infantry Division / In the decade following, 1st Infantry Division units trained to respond to any threat that might arise in Europe or other parts of the world / Increased guerrilla insurgency in South Vietnam during the mid-1960s, led to the deployment of the 1st Infantry Division to Southeast Asia / During this same year, a provisional basic combat training brigade was organized at Fort Riley, and in February 1966, the 9th Infantry Division was reactivated and followed the 1st Infantry Division into combat / Between November 1990 and January 1991, soldiers and equipment were deployed overseas to participate in the Gulf War / Fort Riley became a Division Headquarters on 5 June 1999, with the reactivation of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) / On 1 August 2006, the 1st Infantry Division returned to Fort Riley

## *Miscellaneous:*

After his Honorable Discharge, Ervin Easton worked as a NYS Corrections Officer, retiring after 23 years of dedicated service / Ervin E. Easton, Jr. passed away on 20 February 2026 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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 I 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

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## 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

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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:** **EBERHARDT**

**Hometown:**

**LARRY T**

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST AIR CAVALRY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Larry Thomas Eberhardt honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Larry Eberhardt was deployed to Vietnam in 1970 with the 1st Air Cavalry / While in Vietnam and Cambodia, PFC Eberhardt served on the ground and as a helicopter gunman, assisting on reconnaissance of enemy positions and airlifting of infantry within the 1st Air Cavalry

PFC Larry Eberhardt trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey and Fort Ord, California

**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 Ord, California - Fort Ord, named in honor of Union Army Maj. Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, (1818–1883), is a former United States Army post on Monterey Bay on the Pacific Ocean coast in California, which closed in 1994 due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action / Before construction and official designation as a fort in 1940, the land was used as a maneuver area and field-artillery target range during 1917 / Fort Ord was considered one of the most attractive locations of any U.S. Army post, because of its proximity to the beach and California weather



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Larry Eberhardt was a graduate of West Seneca West High School and attended SUNY Oswego / Larry Eberhardt retired in 2007 from the New York State Department of Corrections in Orleans County Correctional Facility after 25 years as Watch Commander / Larry Thomas Eberhardt passed away on 13 February 2025 at the age of 74 years old

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

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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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**Name:** **EBERLE**

**GEORGE L.**

**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:**

George L. Eberle honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George Eberle was a past president of the Our Lady of Charity Parish Council, former member of the Holy Name Society / George L. Eberle passed away on 16 November 2025



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**Name:** **EBERLE**

**RAYMOND F.**

*Hometown:*

*Address:*

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

*Service Branch:* ARMY

*Rank:* SP4-T

*Year Entered:* 1965

*Year Discharged:* 1967

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

HONORABLE DISCHARGE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

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

*Service Notes:*

Technical Specialist 4 Class Raymond F. Eberle honorably served in the United States Army / SP4-T Raymond Eberle was assigned as a Quartermaster Supply Specialist and served at Headquarters Company, Fort Richardson, Alaska

*Base Assignments:*

Ft. Richardson, Alaska - Fort Richardson is a United States Army installation in the U.S. State of Alaska, adjacent to the city of Anchorage / Fort Richardson was named for the military pioneer explorer, Brig. Gen. Wilds P. Richardson, who served three tours of duty in the rugged Alaska territory between 1897 and 1917 / Richardson, a native Texan and an 1884 West Point graduate, commanded troops along the Yukon River and supervised construction of Fort Egbert near Eagle, and Fort William H. Seward (Chilkoot Barracks) near Haines / As head of the War Department's Alaska Road Commission from 1905 to 1917, he was responsible for much of the surveying and building of early railroads, roads and bridges that helped the state's settlement and growth / The Valdez-Fairbanks Trail, surveyed under his direction in 1904, was named the Richardson Highway in his honor / During World War II, Fort Richardson was used briefly as a holding center for several family members of Alaskan Japanese Americans arrested after Pearl Harbor / Fifteen Japanese Americans and two German Americans were interned here before being transferred to other camps / Built during 1940–1941 on the site of what is now Elmendorf Air Force Base and established as the headquarters of the United States Army, Alaska (USARAK) in 1947, the post moved to its present location five miles northeast of Anchorage in 1950 / The post then had barracks for 500 soldiers, a rifle range, a few warehouses, a hospital, and bachelor officer quarters / From 1986 to 1994 the fort was headquarters of the 6th Infantry Division (Light) / In 2010, it was merged with nearby Elmendorf Air Force Base to form Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Raymond Eberle was employed by the Hamburg Village Public Works Department as an Equipment Operator for over 30 years / Eberle was a member of the Hamburg Volunteer Fire Department, earning Firemen of the Year, and the American Legion Post #527 / Raymond F. Eberle passed away on 8 December 2022 at the age of 79 years old

The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps was responsible for procuring and delivering various supplies to units in all theaters of war during World War II / Quartermaster units were charged with providing food (steady supply of food and rations), clothing, petroleum products (gasoline, kerosene, aviation fuel, diesel oil, fuel oil and petroleum-based lubricants) and general supplies (diverse items as rope, soap, candles, knives, forks and spoons , etc.) to troops stationed in the United States and to the far-flung armed forces around the world / More than 32,000 officers, officer cadets and key enlisted personnel received their training at the Quartermaster School between 1 July 1940 and 3 December 1945 / The physical conditioning of entrants was emphasized from the beginning of the training program / In addition, the rigorous military training entailed learning to use all armed methods of protection, crawling through simulated battlefields, taking refuge in foxholes (of their own digging), making technical decisions regarding rations, and learning every aspect of ammunition supply points (ASPs)

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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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 Honorable Discharge Commemorative Medal, although unofficial and usually struck by private mints or associations, commemorative medals, provide a very tangible memento to honor all veterans and families for their service and sacrifice



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ECHEVERRIA

LOUIS J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**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:**

Sergeant Louis J. Echeverria honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Louis Echeverria was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Louis J. Echeverria passed away on 14 April 1994 at the age of 45 years of age and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

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**Name:** **EDBAUER**

**GERALD**

**J.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Gerald J. Edbauer honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Edbauer owned and operated G.J. Edbauer, Inc. (Motor Carrier Company) since 1985 / His company was in the business of Sandblasting Building Exteriors / Gerald J. Edbauer passed away on 2 September 2023 at the age of 75 years old



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**Name:** **EDDY**

**RICHARD N.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:** **41 DONA STREET**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **ARMY**

**Rank:** **SP4**

**Year Entered:** **1963**

**Year Discharged:** **KIA**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, A COMPANY**

**Medals / Citations:**

**BONZE STAR**

**VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL**

**COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE**

**PARACHUTIST BADGE**

**VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS**

**PURPLE HEART**

**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 Richard Nelson Eddy honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Eddy was deployed to Vietnam on 3 October 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Richard Eddy was Killed In Action on 27 December 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam

Operation "Bolling" was a search and destroy and security operation conducted by the U.S. 503rd Infantry Regiment in Phu Yen Province, RVN, from 19 September 1967 to 31 January 1969. The objective of "Bolling" was to locate and destroy the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 95th Regiment, which was believed to be in a base area known as "The Hub" in the foothills northwest of Tuy Hoa / The operation began uneventfully; however, in late December an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit had been ambushed in the Ky Lo Valley, twenty-seven miles northwest of Tuy Hoa / A scout platoon from 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry was inserted there on December 27th / The platoon came under heavy fire after landing, and the remainder of the battalion was deployed in the area to engage the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) force / Company A landed at noon near the hamlet of Xom Dap, one mile south of the initial contact area in a 200-yard by 50-yard landing zone surrounded by hedges and trees / NVA forces in bunkers around the landing zone immediately opened fire on the company, killing and wounding numerous Americans and destroying one helicopter / Company A fought back, calling in air and artillery support / They formed a perimeter, cleared the surrounding wood lines of snipers, and gradually began to destroy the NVA bunkers on the east side of the landing zone during intense fighting / At approximately 3:30 PM, the NVA (estimated to be company-sized) broke contact when a reaction force from



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4/503rd Infantry was landed nearby / Sixty-two NVA were killed with the loss of fourteen Americans lives / Included in the American casualties was Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Nelson Eddy / Thirty-four U.S. soldiers were wounded in the contact / Fighting continued throughout the night as enemy units conducted hand grenade and harassing attacks against different company perimeters set in overnight positions

Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Eddy was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

SP4 Eddy was awarded the Purple Heart when he was deployed to the Dominican Republic

## *Base Assignments:*

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

## *Miscellaneous:*

Richard Eddy graduated from School 33 and joined the U.S. Army in 1963 / Richard Nelson Eddy was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Richard Nelson Eddy is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32e, Line 71

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 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II; at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in Okinawa, Japan; and in Germany. Regimental elements have been assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, the 11th Airborne Division, the 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / In May 1965, two battalions of the 503rd Infantry deployed as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Vietnam as the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed, joined later by 4-503rd Inf and 3-503rd Inf / During its six years in Vietnam, the four battalions of the 503rd participated in fourteen campaigns, earning two more Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 3rd Battalion, 503rd was relieved and reactivated as 3rd-187th 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and on 14 January 1972 reassigned to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II, ten from Vietnam, and three from Afghanistan



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

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

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

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

The 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



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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

Richard Nelson Eddy was also awarded:

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:** EDWARDS

THOMAS E.

**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 E. Edwards honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Edwards graduated from Timon High School / Edwards worked at the grain mills in South Buffalo / Edwards became the leading salesman for West Herr Ford with Scott Bieler and Brad Hafner / Thomas Edwards was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a volunteer with the Hamburg Little League / Thomas E. Edwards passed away on 13 February 2025 at the age of 88 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **EGLOFF**

**MICHAEL F.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**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:**

Private First-Class Michael Francis Egloff honorably served in the United States Military / PFC Michael Egloff was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Francis Egloff passed away on 11 April 2009 at the age of 60 years old and is interred at the 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

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



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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:** **EGRESSY**

**ANDREW**

**S.**

**Hometown:** EAST CONCORD

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** 1958

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Andrew S. Egressy honorably served in the United States Navy / Andrew Egressy also served as a Mariner for the United States Merchant Marine

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Andrew Egressy was a Firefighter and a Master Mason / Andrew S. Egressy passed away on 4 March 2025 at the age of 87 years old

The United States Merchant Marine (USMM) is an organization composed of U.S. civilian mariners and merchant vessels / It is managed by the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration and includes privately-owned and federally owned, U.S.-registered merchant ships that provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargo in domestic and international commerce / Some of these ships may also be called into military service



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** EHDE

TIMOTHY R.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN-601)

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Timothy R. Ehde honorably served in the United States Navy / Timothy Ehde served in the Submarine Service for 10 years and was stationed aboard the USS Robert E. Lee

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Timothy R. Ehde passed away on 29 May 2018 at the age of 70 years old

The U.S. Navy Submarine Service is a critical component of the Navy, comprising over 70 submarines, including 53 fast attack submarines, 14 ballistic missile submarines, and 4 guided-missile submarines / These submarines are all nuclear-powered and play vital roles in national defense, including strategic deterrence and maritime security / The submarine force is recognized as the most capable in the world, with a history that dates back to World War II, evolving to meet modern challenges and technological advancements

USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN-601), a George Washington-class fleet ballistic missile submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for Robert E. Lee (1807–1870), the commanding general of the Confederate forces during the American Civil War / The Lee was commissioned on 16 September 1960 / The third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine to join the fleet, and the first nuclear-powered submarine built in the southern United States, Robert E. Lee operated in and out of Newport News, Virginia, until 2 December 1960 / Following the successful firing of five torpedoes on 6 December 1960, Robert E. Lee departed for Cape Canaveral, Florida, arriving on 12 December 1960 / She then loaded Polaris test missiles and on 22 December 1960 conducted her first missile launch / In January 1961, Robert E. Lee conducted additional simulated missile launches and on 15 January 1961 departed for the Bermuda Operating Area / Robert E. Lee conducted "special



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operations" out of Cape Canaveral during May and June 1961, and in late June departed for Holy Loch, Scotland, where she joined Submarine Squadron 14 on 10 July 1961 / By 4 October 1967, Robert E. Lee had completed three more patrols / After drydocking in Los Alamos for minor repairs and hull surveillance, she resumed her patrol schedule on 1 November 1967 and completed her 21st patrol / Robert E. Lee was decommissioned on 1 December 1983, and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 30 April 1986 / Her hulk was stored at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard until it entered the Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program and scrapped on 30 September 1991



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** EHLERS

RICHARD C.

**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:**

Richard C. Ehlers honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Ehlers retired from the Ken-Ton School District / Richard C. Ehlers passed away on 24 April 2025 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** EINSTEIN, JR.

ROBERT D.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**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 D. Einstein, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Einstein retired as the Plant Manager from Norampac in Niagara Falls / Robert D. "Irv" Einstein, Jr. passed away on 20 January 2025 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at SS. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** EISMAN

THOMAS E.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64)

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Thomas E. Eisman honorably served in the United States Navy and served onboard the USS Constellation

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy, Thomas Eisman was employed by GM Powertrain until his retirement / Eisman was a member of the South Line Volunteer Fire Company / Thomas E. Eisman passed away on 2 August 2023

The USS Constellation (CV-64), a Kitty Hawk-class supercarrier, was the third ship of the United States Navy to be named in honor of the "new constellation of stars" on the flag of the United States / One of the fastest ships in the Navy, she was commissioned on 27 October 1961 and during her tests at sea, a fire occurred onboard killing four and injuring nine others / The Constellation conducted a two-month shakedown cruise in the Caribbean Sea and in the summer of 1962, Constellation was transferred to the U.S. Pacific Fleet / The Constellation's relieved the carrier Kitty Hawk on station in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam on 8 June 1964, joining Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 and flew armed photo reconnaissance missions over Laos until 13 July 1964 / On 4 August 1964, Constellation launched F-4B Phantom IIs to join aircraft from the USS Ticonderoga in providing air cover over the destroyers which were attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats / On 5 August both carriers launched Operation Pierce Arrow, a series of air strikes on a North Vietnamese oil facility and naval vessels / CVW-14 lost two aircraft, an A-1 Skyraider, piloted by Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard C. Sather, who was killed in action (KIA), and an A-4 Skyhawk flown by Lieutenant (junior grade) Everett Alvarez Jr., who became one of the United States' first prisoners of war (POW) of the Vietnam War / Operations returned to a more normal cycle for the remainder of the deployment, and Constellation returned to San Diego on 1 February 1965, ending a nearly nine-month cruise



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/ The USS Constellation and CVW-14 were awarded a Navy Unit Commendation (NUC) for the early August operations / Constellation's third combat deployment commenced in April 1967. With CVW-14 embarked, the carrier operated first on Dixie Station (a patrol area about 60 miles off South Vietnam) with strikes in the Iron Triangle region, and then moved north to Yankee Station (a patrol area about 50 miles off North Vietnam) for a total of 121 days on the line / Reflecting the intensive nature of air operations, F-4Bs of VF 142 and VF 143 accounted for four MiG kills / The eight-month deployment ended in December, having totaled losses of 16 aircraft and 20 personnel, including seven KIAs and eight POWs / Both the carrier and CVW-14 received a Navy Unit Commendation / Constellation began her fourth deployment to the western Pacific and Vietnam on 29 May 1968 / During this deployment, the Constellation and the CVW-14 team was restricted to strikes below the 20th parallel of North Vietnam as a result of a March Presidential order / On 1 November 1968, as directed by President Johnson, all bombing of North Vietnam was halted at 21:00 Saigon time / The last Navy mission over the restricted area was flown earlier in the day by Cmdr. Kenneth E. Enney in an A-7 Corsair II / Constellation returned to homeport on 31 January 1969, after flying more than 11,000 combat and support missions and dropping almost 20,000 tons of ordnance / Fifteen aircraft were destroyed, nine due to enemy action / Six aircrew members perished, five were listed as KIAs and three were taken as POW / In August 1969, the Constellation returned to Vietnam for a fifth combat deployment / Following an initial 20-day period of supporting strikes in South Vietnam as well as Laos, Constellation sailed to Defender Station in the Sea of Japan, which had been created as a result of increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula / Following a total of 128 days on the line, Constellation's nine-month deployment ended in May 1970, with CVW-14 suffering the loss of seven total aircraft, five to enemy action / One member of the aircrew was taken as a POW, but there were no fatalities / In October 1971, for what would become a historic combat deployment, the USS Constellation returned to Vietnamese waters / Air operations commenced with strikes against mainly logistic targets in Laos as well as reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam into 1972 / On 19 January 1972, the VF-96 F-4 Phantom crew of Lieutenant Randall H. "Duke" Cunningham and Lieutenant (junior grade) William P. Driscoll scored a kill against a MiG-21, the first for a Navy aircraft since The Constellation's VF-142 kill on 28 March 1970 / The carrier was nearing the end of her scheduled deployment when her tour was extended to meet the threat posed by the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive / Initial air strikes in support of ground troops were followed by a new, more intensive series of air strikes against major targets in North Vietnam / The nine-month deployment ended on 1 July 1971, the carrier having spent 154 days off Vietnam / Seven aircraft were lost, two aircrewmen were reported KIA and two became POWs / The Constellation and the CVW-9 team received the Presidential Unit Citation for their outstanding efforts / In January 1973, Constellation headed back to Southeast Asia / The Paris Peace Accords took effect on 28 January 1973, but CVW-9 aircraft continued to strike targets in Laos until a cease-fire in that country was called on 21 February 1973 / the USS Constellation, which had been on station at the beginning of combat operations in Vietnam in 1964, was on station at the end, nine years later / The remainder of the nine-month deployment consisted largely of flights in support of mine-clearing operations in North Vietnam / Upon her return in October 1973, Constellation enjoyed a nine-month workup cycle, and departed in June 1974 for her first peacetime deployment in 10 years / On 23 November 1974, she became the first carrier to enter the Persian Gulf since 1949 / The six-month cruise ended on 24 December 1974 / On 11 January 1995, the Constellation battle group entered the Persian Gulf to take up station in support of Operation Southern Watch (OSW), enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq / Constellation's next deployment, from 1 April to 1 October 1997, included a return to the Persian Gulf for Southern Watch, now under control of the United States Fifth Fleet / In over 10 weeks of operating in the Gulf, CVW-2 flew more than 4,400 sorties, with well over 1,000 Southern Watch sorties / On 28 August 1999, she entered the Persian Gulf and in ten weeks conducted more than 5,000 sorties and 1,256 OSW sorties / This period was highlighted by air strikes against



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two Iraqi radar stations and an attempt by VF-2 to engage an Iraqi jet with the long-range Phoenix air-to-air missile on 14 September 1999 / CVW-2 aircraft engaged in nine specific ordnance-dropping air strikes while in the Persian Gulf / The battle group departed the Persian Gulf on 5 November 1999 / In November 2002, the Constellation prepared for her final deployment and the opportunity to fight in the Global War on Terrorism / On 19 March 2003, with two carriers in the eastern Mediterranean and three in the gulf, Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced / The USS Constellation was designated a night carrier and remained on station throughout the major ground combat phase / She launched more than 1,500 sorties and CVW-2 aircraft delivered over 1.7 million pounds of ordnance / While one aircraft was lost in an operational mishap, there were no fatalities / After 41 years of commissioned service, USS Constellation was decommissioned at the Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego on 7 August 2003 / The Constellation was scrapped at Brownsville, Texas starting in early 2015 / She was towed around Cape Horn on her final voyage / The carrier arrived at her final resting place in Brownsville on 16 January 2015 and scrapping was completed on 10 May 2017



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ELLIS

DAVID W.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

623RD QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class David W. Ellis honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Ellis was deployed to Vietnam with the 623rd Quartermaster Company

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps was responsible for procuring and delivering various supplies to units in all theaters of war during World War II / Quartermaster units were charged with providing food (steady supply of food and rations), clothing, petroleum products (gasoline, kerosene, aviation fuel, diesel oil, fuel oil and petroleum-based lubricants) and general supplies (diverse items as rope, soap, candles, knives, forks and spoons , etc.) to troops stationed in the United States and to the far-flung armed forces around the world / More than 32,000 officers, officer cadets and key enlisted personnel received their training at the Quartermaster School between 1 July 1940 and 3 December 1945 / The physical conditioning of entrants was emphasized from the beginning of the training program / In addition, the rigorous military training entailed learning to use all armed methods of protection, crawling through simulated battlefields, taking refuge in foxholes (of their own digging), making technical decisions regarding rations, and learning every aspect of ammunition supply points (ASPs)

Constituted 3 February 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 623d Quartermaster Railhead Company / Activated 20 April 1944 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana / Inactivated 20 April 1946 in Japan / Redesignated 20 November 1948 as the 623d Quartermaster Base Depot Company and allotted to the Organized Reserve Corps / Withdrawn 16 November 1951 from the Organized Reserve Corps and allotted to the Regular Army; concurrently redesignated as the 623d Quartermaster Company / Activated 12 December 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia / Inactivated 20 December 1968 in Vietnam / The 623d Quartermaster Company participated in several



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counteroffenses including the Tet Counteroffensive / The 623rd received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for their service in Vietnam 1967-1968



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ELLIS**

**JOHN**

**M.**

**Hometown:** SPRINGVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

7TH SEPARATE BULK FUEL COMPANY, SUPPLY BATTALION, 1ST FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT,  
FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND

THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal John Michael Ellis honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL John Ellis was deployed to Vietnam on 29 December 1968 as a Bulk Fuel Specialist / LCpl John Ellis died through non-hostile action (drowning or suffocating) on 10 July 1969 in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Michael Ellis was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Cemetery, Springville, New York

John Michael Ellis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21w, Line 92

The 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company was activated in April 1983 / The 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, part of the 1st Marine Logistics Group, plays a crucial role in providing general engineering support to the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) / Their responsibilities included mobility, counter-mobility, survivability enhancements, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and general supply support, including handling, storage, and distribution of bulk water and fuel / Between 1965 and 1967, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company served as part of the III Marine Amphibious Force stationed in Vietnam / During their service, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Co. dispensed over 76 million gallons of petroleum products from fuel points throughout Military Region-1 (MR-1), Vietnam



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ELLIS

NELSON J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "D", T. C. BATTALION, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (SP-4) Nelson John Ellis honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Nelson Ellis was assigned as a Light Transportation Helicopter Mechanic

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Nelson J. Ellis was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

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 Hood, Texas and was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / 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 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

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,



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ELLSWORTH**  
**ROY** **F.**

**Hometown:** WEST FALLS

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**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 Roy F. Ellsworth honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roy F. Ellsworth passed away on 12 April 2019 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



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

**Name:** **ELMES**  
**ROBERT**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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 Elmes honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Elmes was a Machinist and Millwright / Robert Elmes passed away on 26 September 2025 at the age of 70 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ELY**

**WAYNE**

**R.**

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:

Wayne R. Ely honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne R. Ely passed away on 9 October 2024 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** EMERY JR

CHARLES H.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1ST LT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND VIETNAM (MACV), ADVISORY TEAM 80

**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:**

First Lieutenant Charles Henry Emery, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Charles Emery was deployed to Vietnam on 28 September 1968 as a Training Officer / 1Lt Charles Emery, Jr. was Killed In Action on 28 September 1969 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in An Xugen Province, South Vietnam / First Lieutenant Emery had been in Vietnam for exactly one year

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Emery was a graduate of Buffalo State College / Charles Henry Emery, Jr. Was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York

Charles Henry Emery, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 17w, Line 15

Advisory Team 80 was a unit within the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) during the Vietnam War / These advisory teams played a crucial role in supporting and training South Vietnamese forces / Specifically, Team 80 operated in Camou, a location deep in the Mekong Delta / Their mission was to directly assist District Advisory Teams, which were remotely stationed alongside South Vietnamese forces / Advisory team 80 worked tirelessly to enhance the capabilities of their counterparts, foster cooperation, and strengthen the overall



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

effectiveness of the allied efforts during the Vietnam War

The U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense, composed of forces from the United States Army, United States Navy, and United States Air Force, as well as their respective special operations forces / MACV was created on 8 February 1962, in response to the increase in United States military assistance to South Vietnam / MACV was first implemented to assist the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Vietnam, controlling every advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam / It was reorganized on 15 May 1964 and absorbed MAAG Vietnam to its command when combat unit deployment became too large for advisory group control / MACV was disestablished on 29 March 1973 and replaced by the Defense Attaché Office (DAO), Saigon / The DAO performed many of the same roles of MACV within the restrictions imposed by the Paris Peace Accords until the Fall of Saigon

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 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

Name: **ENGLEHARDT**

**ROBERT**

**F.**

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Robert F. Englehardt honorably served in the United States Army and the United States Coast Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert F. Englehardt passed away on 5 July 2024 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ENGLER

JACK

H.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL W/PALM

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Jack Harold Engler honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jack Harold Engler passed away on 18 February 2023 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 / 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



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

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is one of the unit awards of the United States Air Force / It was established in 1954 and was the first independent Air Force decoration created / The Outstanding Unit Award is awarded to any unit of the U.S. Air Force (including the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard) which performs exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishes specific acts of outstanding achievement, excels in combat operations against an armed enemy of the United States, or conducts with distinct military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to, a hostile action by any opposing foreign force

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 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:** ERENSTOFT

DAVID K.

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:** 4217 SUSAN DRIVE

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** WO

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 52ND AVIATION BATTALION, 17TH AVIATION GROUP, 155TH AVIATION COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Warrant Officer David Karl Erenstoft honorably served in the United States Army / WO David Erenstoft was deployed to Vietnam on 04 January 1970 as a Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO David Erenstoft died on 8 March 1970 when his helicopter crashed in Quang Duc Province, South Vietnam

On 8 March 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 68-15540) from the 155th Assault Helicopter Company was the lead aircraft in a group of four helicopters carrying an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Special Forces team during an insertion operation / The mission began at Ban Me Thuot and was headed to Duc Lap when thick, foggy conditions were encountered / Visibility was very poor, and the flight had to follow a narrow road cut out of the trees while flying under clouds at about 50 feet off the ground / They were flying fast (between 50–70 knots airspeed) to avoid hostile groundfire / The third helicopter, piloted by WO Erenstoft with three other crewman, was communicating with the lead flight when they suddenly stopped responding / The three other aircraft continued and completed the flight / While returning to base, they found the crashed helicopter after visualizing a column of smoke rising from the jungle / A medivac was sent to the scene where a single ARVN survivor was found / The survivor reportedly told U.S. Army officials that they either got too high in the fog, or the helicopter lowered to the ground, causing the pilot to bank right, then left, then hit a tree

**Base Assignments:**



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## *Miscellaneous:*

David Erenstoft attended the Park School and was a graduate of Amherst Central High School / Erenstoft completed a year at Norwich University, Vermont before enlisting in the U.S. Army on 8 January 1969 / David Karl Erenstoft was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Karl Erenstoft is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 96

The 1st Aviation Brigade is an aviation brigade of the United States Army, stationed at Fort Novosel in Alabama / In accordance with The Naming Commission recommendations Fort Rucker was renamed Fort Novosel in early 2023 / The 1st Aviation Brigade traces its origins to the Vietnam War / In April 1965 the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional) was activated with the existing 13th, 14th, 52nd, and 145th Aviation Battalions already in South Vietnam / In August 1965 it became the 12th Aviation Group, which then doubled in size and was used to form the 1st Aviation Brigade in March 1966 / The companies supporting Army of the Republic of Vietnam units were located in centralized positions to best provide support / The brigade assigned one combat aviation battalion headquarters in direct support of each infantry division and this battalion headquarters normally worked with that division no matter how many companies might be assigned for a specific mission / The Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was located in Saigon from May 1966 until August 1967 / The HQ then moved to Long Binh where it remained until Long Binh was closed in the early autumn of 1972 / The HQ then moved to the MACV compound at Tan Son Nhut, where it stayed until withdrawal

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ERNST

JOHN

T.

**Hometown:** AKRON

**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:**

John T. Ernst honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Ernst was a lifelong member of the Knights of Saint John for 63 years in Commandery 135 and also served his community as a member and officer of the Akron-Newstead Senior Center / John T. Ernst passed away on 11 January 2026 at the age of 81 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ERNST, JR.

CHESTER R.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 132 BRIERWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

MEDICAL COMPANY (WOQ5MD), VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL, PHOENIXVILLE,  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

3 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Chester Raymond Ernst, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army as a Payroll Disbursement Specialist

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Chester R. Ernst, Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

Valley Forge General Hospital is a former military hospital in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania / The hospital was near both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Valley Forge. It was the only United States Army General Hospital named for a place / The hospital was built in 1942, and opened on Washington's Birthday in 1943 to care for the wounded of World War II / It became the largest military hospital in the United States. Eventually, the hospital had well over 3,000 patients and over 100 separate buildings / During the Vietnam War, patients were flown into McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey / Army patients would then be moved by Air Force ambulance bus to Walson Army Hospital at the adjacent Fort Dix, where they would be further prepared for movement, typically by Army ambulance buses if they were moving to Valley Forge / In 1969, the 212th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) was activated at Fort Meade, Maryland / One of its primary missions was to transport patients from Fort Dix, New Jersey to Valley Forge / The need was clearly there; between January 1, 1968 and September 30, 1970, 7,033 patients were moved from Dix to the Valley Forge General Hospital / On April 17,



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1973, it was announced that the hospital would be closing / The Valley Forge General Hospital was placed in an inactive status effective 31 March 1974, by Department of the Army

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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

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ERTEL

THOMAS A.

*Hometown:*

*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 Allen Ertel honorably served in the United States Navy

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

Thomas Ertel was employed by Bristol Myers Squibb for thirty-five years / Ertel was a New York City Marathon finisher / Thomas Allen Ertel passed away on 28 July 2025 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ESCOTT

ROBERT H.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** ABE3

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Third-Class (Launching and Recovery) Robert H. Escott honorably served in the United States Navy / ABE3 Robert Escott was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Aviation Boatswain's Mate's (ABE) operate and maintain catapults, arresting gear, barricades, and water brakes / Run and repair hydraulic and steam catapult systems / Control and monitor deck-edge control stations, jet blast deflectors, ICCS (Integrated Catapult Control System), and jet blast deflector control panels / Oversee and maintain arresting gear engines, sheave dampers, and retraction engines / Work directly with pilots and deck crews to ensure safe launches and landings



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ESPINOZA**  
**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

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

**Service Notes:**

Joel Espinoza honorably served in the United States Military / Joel Espinoza was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ESS**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**ROBERT E.**

**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:**

Robert Edward Ess honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Ess was a longtime employee of Bethlehem Steel in Lackawanna, New York and C.S. Behler Company, Lancaster, New York, a company specializing in Insulation and Cold Storage / Ess was a Mason and Shriner and a member of the Valley of Buffalo / Robert Edward Ess passed away on 25 December 2024 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ETIENNE**

**STEPHEN L.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**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:**

Stephen Leo Etienne honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Etienne was a 1966 graduate of Kenmore East High School / Etienne was a retired Engineer of Crouse Irving Hospital / Stephen Leo Etienne passed away on 25 November 2016 at the age of 68 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **EVANS**  
M.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**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:**

M. Evans honorably served in the United States Military / M. Evans was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **EVANS**

**PAUL**

**R.**

**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:**

Paul R. Evans honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul R. Evans passed away on 21 May 2025 at the age of 79 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **EVANS**

**PAUL**

**M.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 40 KOPERNICK

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, L COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Paul Michael Evans honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Paul Evans was deployed to Vietnam on 16 June 1968 as a Rifleman / LCPL Paul Evans was Killed In Action on 4 January 1969 as a result of friendly fire (artillery rocket) in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During a patrol on 4 January 1969, 2 kilometers northwest of Nui Dat Son (Hill 55), the Marines were hit with enemy small arms fire and began to pursue two Viet Cong towards the hamlet of Le Son / The pursuing Marines were mistaken for the enemy and several rounds of 60mm mortar fire from a Marine position were directed at the men resulting in one Marine being wounded and LCPL Paul Evans killed by shrapnel

Camp Evans was established by the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines in late 1966 as part of Operation Chinook / The camp was located to the west of Highway 1, approximately 24 km northwest of Hue in Thua Thien–Hue Province / The camp was named after Marine Lance Corporal Paul Evans who was killed during Operation Chinook

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Evans enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 29 December 1967 in Buffalo / Paul Michael Evans was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

York

Paul Michael Evans is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35w, Line 33

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

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (3/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed the "Thundering Third", the battalion consists of approximately 1,220 Marines and Sailors and falls under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines was activated on 1 March 1941 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and assigned to the 1st Marine Division / From January 1966 to May 1971, the battalion fought in the Vietnam War, operating from Chu Lai, Da Nang, Thang Binh, Thanh Thuy, Cua Việt, Ca Lu, Vandegrift Combat Base, Route 9, An Hoa, and Hoa Vang / In May 1971, they re-located to MCB Camp Pendleton, California

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



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

The 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 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



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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:** **EVERETT**

**GREGORY T.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:**

Gregory T. Everett honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gregory Everett graduated from Amherst Central High School in 1965 / Gregory T. Everett passed away on 4 July 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** EXUM

JIMMIE

R.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Jimmie R. Exum honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jimmie Exum was born in Memphis, Tennessee and moved to Buffalo / Deacon Jimmie R. Exum passed away on 5 February 2023 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York