



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GAIK**

**PAUL**

**F.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS MOUNT MCKINLEY (AGC-7/LCC-7)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Paul Francis Gaik honorably served in the United States Navy / Paul Gaik served as the Quartermaster aboard the USS McKinley during the Cuban Missile Crisis (16–28 October 1962)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Gaik retired from Northwest Airlines / Paul Francis Gaik passed away in February 2025 at the age of 81 years old

A Navy Quartermaster is a person on a military ship responsible for navigating the vessel / They control the ship's wheel, consult the navigation charts and maintain the functionality of all navigation-related equipment and tools / They also assist the ship's chief navigator and can serve as helmsman if called upon / The Quartermaster maintains the ship's deck log, observes current weather conditions and forecasts and planning routes accordingly / Quartermasters take regular turns to patrol a ship to ensure its safety

USS Mount McKinley (AGC-7/LCC-7) was the lead ship of the Mount McKinley class of amphibious force command ships / She was named after the highest mountain in North America / She was designed as an amphibious force flagship, a floating command post with advanced communications equipment and extensive combat information spaces to be used by the amphibious force's commander and landing force commander during large-scale operations / The USS Mount McKinley was commissioned on 1 May 1944 / On 28 September 1944, the Mount McKinley joined the Pacific Fleet and sailed to proceeded to Ngesebus Island to provide shore bombardment coordination / Mount McKinley left the area 14 October 1944 after Peleliu and the chain's other main islands were secure / After a stop at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, the ship sailed to San Pedro Bay, Leyte



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Gulf, for the assault on Leyte and Ormoc / While in San Pedro Bay, the force was under constant air attack, but Mount McKinley was not hit / On 15 December 1944, the ship participated in the invasion of Mindoro and proceeded to Lingayen Gulf to direct shore bombardment on 9 January 1945 / On 21 March 1945, Mount McKinley proceeded to Kerama Retto off the southern coast of Okinawa / Six days prior to the last major assault of the war, Mount McKinley directed the landing of the 77th Infantry Division / For the next two months, she remained at anchorage at Kerama Retto, threatened by constant air attacks, before returning to Pearl Harbor / Returning to the United States 12 February 1946, she sailed in the early summer for Bikini Atoll where she was flagship for Operation Crossroads, during the atomic tests. Following the atomic bomb tests in July 1946, the ship operated out of San Diego for the next 18 months / In early 1948, she was the command ship for the atomic bomb test at Eniwetok / Upon completion of these tests, she returned to San Diego to resume coastal operations / On 26 June 1950, the ship proceeded from Japan to direct the landing of American reinforcements at Pohang at the beginning of the Korean War / In early September 1950, General Douglas MacArthur was aboard, directing the amphibious assault at Inchon which forced the North Koreans to retreat north / The Mount McKinley participated in three tours of duty in the Korean War area / On 3 June 1956, the ship returned to San Diego and on 9 January 1957, the ship deployed to the Mediterranean / In October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Mount McKinley served at flagship for ComPhibLant and ComPhibGru / Following the Cuban quarantine, she sailed for the Mediterranean 10 January 1963 to act as command flagship for the Amphibious Strike Force / During the Vietnam War, the USS Mount McKinley was the flagship of the Commander, 7th Fleet Amphibious Force / She provided communications support for search and destroy operations against the Vietcong and People's Army of Vietnam forces / Relieved in mid-January 1968, the ship sailed east for CONUS and home, arriving San Diego 10 February 1968 / The ship's designation was changed from AGC-7 to LCC-7 on 1 January 1969 / Following her arrival back in CONUS, she was engaged in type training and amphibious exercises on the west coast as flagship of ComPhibGru 3 into 1969 / Mount McKinley was decommissioned on 26 March 1970 and stricken on 30 July 1976 / She was sold for disposal in 1976 / Mount McKinley received four battle stars for World War II service, eight stars for Korean service, and a Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation



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**Name:** **GAINEY, JR.**

**ERNEST J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS COMSTOCK (LSD-19)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE STAR MEDAL

NYS MEDAL FOR MERIT

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ernest John Gainey, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 Ernst Gainey was deployed to Vietnam aboard the USS Comstock as a Boiler Technician (BT) / Gainey served 34 months of sea duty aboard the USS Comstock (LSD-19)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ernest Gainey, Jr. served as a highly-respected leader of the Sullivans Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in Buffalo, including Commanding Officer for 10 years, attaining the rank of Lt. Commander / Ernest Gainey was also very involved in other military-related organizations, including the NYS Naval Militia and the U.S. Navy League / Gainey was also a past member of the Patriot Guard Riders / Ernest John Gainey, Jr. passed away on 29 June 2020

The Navy Boiler Technician operates and performs maintenance on marine boilers, pumps, and other fire room machinery / Technicians perform tests on boiler water, fuel, and lubricating oils; operates and performs preventive maintenance on boilers and boiler auxiliary equipment; operates distilling plants; tests and calibrates gauges; exercises environmental control procedures / Technicians do repair work; supervises oil spill containment and collecting; prepares environment pollution reports; conducts on-the-job training; monitors maintenance and handling of logs, records, accounts, and reports; prepares quarterly maintenance schedules /



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Boiler Technicians perform all basic fireman apprenticeship functions in engineering areas aboard ship, involving cleanliness, operation, maintenance, and preservation of main propulsion, auxiliary steam or diesel machinery, steam or diesel generators, various pumps

USS Comstock (LSD-19) was a Casa Grande-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy / She was the first navy ship named in honor of the Comstock Lode in Nevada, discovered in 1859, which was one of the richest deposits of precious metals known in the world / The Comstock was commissioned on 2 July 1945 / Comstock sailed for the Far East 7 July 1950 and arrived at Sasebo, Japan, 12 August, to support the United Nations operations in Korea / She joined in the initial invasion at Inchon, 15 September, and remained there as a repair and salvage vessel until 4 October / She also saw action during the invasion of Wonsan on 26 October / In January 1951 she was assigned as flagship for Mine Squadron 3, and furnished gunfire cover and logistic support during minesweeping operations along the east coast of Korea / Comstock served in several campaigns in the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1969 / The USS Comstock Comstock was decommissioned on 20 April 197 and struck from the Naval Register on 30 June 1976 / Sold for scrapping on 17 October 1984, the Comstock was towed to Taiwan for scrapping

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

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



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**Name:** **GAJ**

**THOMAS L.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

91ST ENGINEER BATTALION

US ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Thomas Leonard Gaj honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Thomas Gaj was deployed for 18 months in Alaska as a U1-A Aircraft Repairman

SP5 Thomas Gaj was received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 19 May 1971

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Leonard Gaj passed away on 14 May 2022 at the age of 73 years old

The Transportation Corps is a combat service support branch of the U.S. Army / It is responsible for the movement of personnel and material by truck, rail, air, and sea. It is one of three U.S. Army logistics branches, the others being the Quartermaster Corps and the Ordnance Corps / The Vietnam War saw the most diversified assortment of transportation units ever assembled / For over a decade the Transportation Corps provided continuous support for American and allied forces through an unimproved tropical environment using



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watercraft, amphibians, motor trucks and Transportation Corps aircraft

The 91st Engineer Battalion was a military engineer unit in the United States Army / The Battalion served in World War II, mainly in the Pacific region and also served in Bosnia and Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom / The 91st Engineer Battalion was deactivated at Fort Hood on 8 July 2005 as a result of the transformation of the United States Army / On 16 October 2013, it was assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and activated at Fort Hood, Texas

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**Name:** **GALBRAITH**  
**RODNEY Q.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY HEADQUARTERS (HQ) BATTALION, 2ND MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVISE

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL W/"V"

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Rodney Quay Galbraith honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Rodney Galbraith was deployed to Vietnam for 2 years, 5 months and 20 days as a Legal Clerk / Sergeant Galbraith attended the Naval Justice School and served as a Legal Clerk

**Base Assignments:**

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Naval Justice School - Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Justice School (NJS) is an educational institution of the United States Navy whose mission is to instruct Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel in the fundamental principles of military justice, civil and administrative law, and procedure / The Naval Justice School was founded in 1946 and moved to Newport, Rhode Island in 1950 from Port Hueneme, California

**Miscellaneous:**



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Rodney Q. Galbraith was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940, American Legion Post #735 and the Marine Corps League, Detachment #239 / Rodney Quay "Skeet" Galbraith passed away on 9 June 2024 at the age of 76 years old

The mission of the Headquarters Company, HQ Ballion, 2nd Marine Division is to train, administer, and sustain Marines in order to ensure their individual readiness and enable Marine supported organizations to concentrate on their respective missions

The 2nd Marine Division (2nd MARDIV) is a division of the United States Marine Corps, which forms the ground combat element of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) / The division is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina / During World War II, the 2nd Marine Division (Headquarters) participated in operations in the Pacific Theater of Operations: the Guadalcanal Campaign, in the Solomon Islands campaign, the Battle of Tarawa, the Gilbert Islands campaign, the Battle of Saipan, the Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / The Division didn't take part in a major action again until 1958 when elements participated in the U.S. intervention into the Lebanon crisis of 1958 / 2nd Marine Division units helped to reinforce Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and landed in the Dominican Republic in 1965 as part of Operation Power Pack / Other peacekeeping operations carried on by the Division include being part of the Multi National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon from August 1982 until February 1984 / The Division suffered the loss of 238 Marines and Sailors during the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, plus 3 U.S. Army personnel attached to the unit

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

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

The Navy Achievement Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement or meritorious service of military personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal /The Navy Achievement Medal (NAM), is the United States Navy version of the Achievement Medal / The U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal" / The "V" device is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations

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



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

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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:** **GALFO**  
**ANTHONY**

**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:**

Anthony Galfo honorably served in the United States Military / Anthony Galfo was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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**Name:** **GALLAGHER**  
**PATRICK**

*Hometown:*

*Address:*

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

*Service Branch:* ARMY

*Rank:*

*Year Entered:*

*Year Discharged:*

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

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

*Service Notes:*

Patrick Gallagher honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

Patrick Gallagher graduated from St. Agatha's School and Bishop Timon High School / Gallagher attended Trocaire College and State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo / Patrick Gallagher was a Nurse Practitioner at Children's Hospital in Buffalo and worked in the field of radiology at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia / Gallagher retired to Avondale Estates, Georgia / Patrick Gallagher passed away on 28 December 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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**Name:** **GALLERY**

**RICHARD M.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:** 112 STEVENSON BOULEVARD

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Richard Mulroy Gallery honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Richard Gallery was deployed to Vietnam on 8 February 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Richard Gallery was Killed In Action on 2 May 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat with a hostile enemy force in Ni Ha 7km west-northwest of Cua Viet River, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was re-named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Gallery graduated from Saint Benedict Grammar School / Gallery was a 1965 graduate of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and completed his sophomore year at Canisius College prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army in August 1967 / Richard Mulroy Gallery was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Richard Mulroy Gallery is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 54e, Line 7

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

The 21st Infantry Regiment ("Gimlet") is a United States Army infantry regiment / The 1st Battalion currently exists as part of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division / The regiment fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom / Task Force Smith, the first American unit to see action in the Korean War, was derived from the regiment's 1st Battalion / The 3rd Battalion of the regiment was activated on 10 September 1965 at Fort Devens / It was subordinated to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade / On 26 August 1966, it was sent to South Vietnam / The brigade was attached to the 25th Infantry Division and was based at Tây Ninh / 3rd Battalion fought in Operation Attleboro between September and November 1966 / In January 1967, the battalion participated in Operation Cedar Falls / Between February and April, it participated in Operation Junction City / The 196th was then transferred to Chu Lai / On 15 July 1969, it was attached to the 23rd Infantry Division until that division's withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971 / The 3rd Battalion then formed Task Force Gimlet, patrolling the "rocket belt" around Da Nang / From 5 to 11 August



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1972, Delta Company, 3/21st Infantry undertook the last patrol by U.S. troops in the war with two soldiers wounded by booby traps / The unit was relieved by South Vietnamese soldiers / The battalion was withdrawn from South Vietnam on 23 August 1972 and inactivated in Oakland on the same day

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

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The Combat 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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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GALLO

MICHAEL L.

**Hometown:** SPRINGVILLE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1974

**Year Discharged:** 1977

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael L. Gallo honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Gallo worked as a Production Manager for Avox Systems, Lancaster, New York / Gallo was also a world famous magician / Michael L. Gallo passed away on 6 October 2024 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GANG**

**ALLEN R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

17TH CAVALRY REGIMENT, 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| PURPLE HEART                                   | VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS |
| VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL                         | COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE                |
| MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (MACHINE GUN) | MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)    |
| NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL                 | GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL                      |

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Allen R. Gang honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Allen Gang was initially stationed at the United States Army Overseas Replacement Station in Oakland, California before being deployed to Vietnam for 12 months, assigned to a Transportation Detachment / PFC Allen Gang was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat action on 2 February 1968

PFC Gang was stationed at the United States Overseas Replacement Station in Oakland, California prior to being deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky–Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger,



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Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

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

### *Miscellaneous:*

Allen Gang attended South Park High School before entering the U.S. Army at the age of 19 years old / Allen was a life member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and American Legion Post #721 Buffalo, New York / Allen R. Gang passed away on 10 November 2024 at the age of 77 years old

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

case posthumously

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GANG**

**WAYNE T.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH BATTALION, 60TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Wayne Thomas Gang, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Wayne Gang was deployed to Vietnam for 18 months active duty, assigned as a Medical Specialist / While serving in Vietnam, Specialist 4th Class Gang Sr. received a Letter of Commendation from the Battalion Surgeon for "...remarkable knowledge, tenacious diligence and outstanding devotion to duty which produced dramatic effects and resulted in unprecedented standards of medical support..."

SP-4 Wayne Gang, Sr. received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 21 November 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Wayne Thomas Gang, Sr. passed away on 15 May 2018 at the age of 70 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

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

The Air Defense Artillery Branch is the branch of the United States Army that specializes in anti-aircraft weapons



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Town of West Seneca, New York

(such as surface to air missiles) / In the U.S. Army, these groups are composed of mainly air defense systems such as the Patriot Missile System, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), and the Avenger Air Defense system which fires the FIM-92 Stinger missile

The 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is an air defense unit of the United States Army / The regiment was constituted on 23 December 1917 in the Regular Army as the 60th Artillery, Coast Artillery Corps and organized at Fort Monroe, Virginia, comprising Regular Army companies and National Guard companies from Virginia and the District of Columbia / The 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was sent to France to fight with the American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front in World War I, participating in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive armed with 24 155 mm GPF guns / Known as the Fighting Aces, 4th Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, last saw action during the Vietnam War in 1972

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GANGLOFF  
DANIEL**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Daniel Gangloff honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GAPINSKI**

**ROBERT**

**V.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:** 151 CRESTHAVEN

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY, E COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Victor Gapinski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Gapinski was deployed to Vietnam on 25 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Robert Gapinski died on 8 July 1969 as a result of drowning while on a military mission in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Gapinski was a graduate of Amherst Central High School / Gapinski attended Paul Smiths College before getting drafted into the U.S. Army on 26 August 1968 / Robert Victor Gapinski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary, Cheektowaga, New York

Robert Victor Gapinski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21w, Line 82



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / During its involvement in the Vietnam War, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners of war / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

Since the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, three regiments have held the designation 28th Infantry Regiment / The first was a provisional unit that was constituted on 29 January 1813 and served during The War of 1812 / The second was a reorganization and redesignation of 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment on 1 October 1866 for the American Indian Wars / This incarnation of the 28th Infantry Regiment lasted until 15 March 1869, when it was consolidated back into the 19th Infantry Regiment / The third version of the 28th Infantry Regiment is the one that has the permanent designation and history / In 1965, the 1st and 2nd Battalions were deployed to South Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion was badly mauled during the Battle of Ong Thanh in October 1967 / Early 1970 saw the end of the participation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 28th Infantry in Vietnam / After almost 5 years of combat in South Vietnam, the colors of both battalions were re-deployed to Fort Riley

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Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARCIA**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** ROSE AVE

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

241ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY  
110TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, USARPAC (U.S. ARMY PACIFIC)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL  
MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION  
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Joseph Garcia honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Joseph Garcia was stationed in Hawaii and volunteered for duty in Vietnam / While stationed in Vietnam, SP5 Garcia provided perimeter and checkpoint security for his compound while stationed in Long Mai, Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

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

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii - Located in the County of Honolulu and named after Lieutenant General John McAllister Schofield, Commanding General United States Army August 1888 to September 1895 / Schofield had



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been sent to Hawaii in 1872 and had recommended the establishment of a naval base at Pearl Harbor / The post was established in 1908 to provide mobile defense of Pearl Harbor and the entire island

Wheeler Air Force Base, Hawaii - Named Wheeler Field on 11 November 1922 in honor of Major Sheldon H. Wheeler, former commander of Luke Field on Ford Island, killed in the crash of DH-4B, on 13 July 1921 / Wheeler Army Airfield was a primary target and site of the first attack on 7 December 1941, leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor / The Japanese attacked the airfield to prevent the numerous planes there from getting airborne and engaging them / Most of the planes were destroyed, but 12 pilots assigned to the 15th Pursuit Group at Wheeler succeeded in getting their P-36 Hawk and P-40 Warhawk aircraft off the ground, engaged the Japanese in furious dogfights, and scored some of the first American victories of World War II With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service in 1947, Wheeler Army Air Base was re-designated Wheeler Air Force Base / In August 1987, the Secretary of the Interior designated Wheeler AFB as a National Historic Landmark, recognizing it as a site of national significance in the history of the United States and, in particular, World War II in the Pacific

Long Mai, Vietnam - U.S. Army base was located in Minh Long District, Quang Ngai

### *Miscellaneous:*

Joseph Garcia attended West Seneca Senior High School and worked as a Bell Hop at the Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo / Upon graduation from high school in 1968, Garcia enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Fort Dix for basic training / After his honorable discharge, Joseph Garcia became a Special Investigator for Erie County under President Richard Nixon's American Presidency Project / Later Garcia worked for the Ford Motor Company, Hanna Furnace Corporation for eight years, Lasalle Ambulance and Rural Metro / Joseph Garcia is retired and still resides in West Seneca

The 241st Transportation Company was constituted 26 December 1942 as Company D, 494th Port Battalion, Transportation Corps, later reorganized and redesignated 30 June 1943 as the 241st Port Company / On 15 November 1954 the company was again reorganized and redesignated as the 241st Transportation Company / The 241st received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) for Vietnam 1966-1967, 1968, 1968-1970 and 1970-1971

The 110th Transportation Company was constituted 10 November 1942 as Company L, 3d Battalion, 466th Quartermaster Truck Regiment / Reorganized and redesignated 23 March 1955 as the 110th Transportation Company and allotted to the Regular Army / the company received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation , Streamer embroidered Vietnam 1965, 1966-1967, 1968, 1968-1970, 1970-1971, 1971-1972 and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered Vietnam, 1971 / The 110th was Inactivated 15 September 1999 in Panama but reactivated 16 October 2008 at Fort Drum, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The Army Meritorious Unit Award (MUA) is awarded to units of the United States Army who show exceptional meritorious conduct in their performance of duties for a period of at least 6 months during conflict with an armed enemy / While service in a combat zone is not necessary, their service must be directly related to the combat effort / Subsequent awards of the citation are displayed by wearing an Oak Leaf Cluster on the service ribbon

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARDNER**  
**ARTHUR**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Arthur Gardner honorably served in the United States Military / Arthur Gardner was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARDON**  
**ROBERT M.**

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert M. Gardon honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Gardon was a retired New York State Corrections Officer / Robert M. Gardon passed away on 15 March 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARLAND, JR.**  
**FRANK**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS, 494TH BOMB WING, STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

**Medals / Citations:**

AF LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class Frank Garland, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force as an Administrative Specialist during his four years in foreign service

A1C Frank Garland was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 25 March 1965

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Garland, Jr. passed away on 28 February 2017 and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 494th Bomb Wing A Strategic Air Command operational Wing of B-52 bombers and KC-135 tanker aircraft was located at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas until 1965

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

award

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARRETT**

**LAWRENCE E.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

MARINE AIR GROUP-39, 1ST MARINE AIR WING

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Lawrence E. Garrett honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Lawrence Garrett was assigned as an Aviation Radio Repairman and was deployed to Vietnam for 13 months with the Marine Air Traffic Control-62, Marine Air Group-39, 1st Marine Air Wing

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence E. Garrett passed away on 18 November 2016 and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Aviation Radio Repairman install and repair radio equipment, including multichannel radio equipment, used by ground and aviation forces / Their duties include troubleshooting and repairing ground common radio systems / Aviation Radio Repairman are trained in RF radiation hazard identification, Corrosion Control Management, CPR, First aid and Fire extinguisher usage

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is an aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps that serves as the Aviation Combat Element of the III Marine Expeditionary Force / The wing is headquartered at Camp Foster on the island of Okinawa, Japan / Activated in 1940, the wing has seen heavy combat operations during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War / The mission of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is to conduct air operations in support of the Fleet Marine Forces to include offensive air support, anti-air warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance including active and passive electronic countermeasures (ECM), and control of aircraft and



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

missiles

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A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition / The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. The medal was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict. It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy 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 medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARRISON, JR.**  
**ALBERT**

**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:**

Albert "Al" Garrison, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Albert Garrison was a member of the Screen Actors Guild for 43 years with many motion pictures to his credit /  
Albert "Al" Garrison, Jr. passed away on 4 July 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARVIN**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GARVIN**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GASIEWICZ**

**JAMES R.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James R. Gasiewicz honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James R. Gasiewicz passed away on 27 May 2025 at the age of 78 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:** **GAWLAK, JR.**

**ALBERT**

**A.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Albert Anthony Gawlak, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Albert Anthony Gawlak, Jr. passed away on 15 November 2024 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GAWRON**

**ROBERT**

**F.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert F. Gawron honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert F. Gawron passed away on 24 December 2025 at the age of 76 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GEARY, SR.**

**WILLIAM E.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 4 BRONZE STARS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: ( M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal William E. Geary, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Cpl. William Geary was deployed to Vietnam for 16 months as a Radio Relay Operator

Corporal William E. Geary, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 2 February 1970, with reserve obligations ending 17 February 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William E. Geary, Sr. passed away on 6 January 2025 at the age of 79 years old

The Marine Corps Radio Operator is a versatile specialty that allows Marines to be assigned to a variety of units / These Marines are responsible for setting up radio communication equipment so that units can maintain contact with others / Duties include: Setting up and tuning radio equipment, including antennas and power sources / Establishing contact with distant stations / Processing and logging of messages / Marine Radio Operators can be assigned to any unit in the Marine Corps, including: Engineering, Artillery, Infantry, Tanks, Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV), Headquarters, Communications, RECON/MarSOC / The most experienced radiomen are usually assigned to battalion command and communication

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by



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

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

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 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:** **GEHRING**

**RICHARD J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard John Gehring honorably served in the United States Army as a Medical Corpsman in 1967

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Gehring received his Master's of Social Work (MEW) Degree from the University of Chicago / For nearly 57 years, Gehring was a teacher, Field Work Supervisor for the University of Buffalo, Daemen University, Erie County Community College and the New York State Prison System / Gehring also worked for the New York State Department of Health and was the Executive Director of Meals on Wheels (FeedMore WNY) for 30 years / Richard Gehring was a Board Member for the Amherst Senior Transportation Services and CMH Counseling Services / Gehring also volunteered at the Canopy of Neighbors and the Little Portion Friary / Richard John Gehring passed away on 27 June 2024 at the age of 82 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:** **GELYON**

**PETER A.**

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**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:**

Peter A. Gelyon honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter A. Gelyon passed away on 31 December 2024 at the age of 85 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GELZ, SR.**

**FREDERICK J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Frederick J. Gelz, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frederick J. Gelz, Sr. passed away on 15 January 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GEMBOLYS**  
**VINCENT F.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Vincent F. Gembolys honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Vincent Gembolys was assigned as a Machine Gunner during 12 months of combat operations in Vietnam

LCPL Vincent Gembolys received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 5 August 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Vincent F. Gembolys passed away on 24 January 2021 at the age of 72 years old

Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5, nicknamed Dark Horse) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps / The battalion is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and consists of approximately



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1,000 Marines and Fleet Marine Force Navy personnel / The 3rd Battalion falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment which falls under the command of the 1st Marine Division / 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, along with the rest of the 5th Marine Regiment, was first organized on 8 June 1917, as the United States prepared for World War I / They participated in campaigns and battles such as Bois de Belleau, Vierzy, Château-Thierry, Pont-a-Mousson, Limey Sector, Fleury, Meuse-Argonne, Blanc Mont, St Michiel, Leffincourt and Soissons / During World War II, the Marines of 3/5 fought at Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu, and Okinawa / At Peleliu, they were the last Marine battalion to be shipped out before the army took over in April 1946 / In August 1950 the battalion deployed to fight against the North Korean army's invasion of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) during the Korean War / The 3rd Battalion fought at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From April 1966 to March 1971, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, deployed to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War / They fought in Chu Lai, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Operation Hastings, Operation Union, and Union II in the Que Son valley (where they received a Presidential Unit Citation), the Battle of Hue, An Hoa, Operation Swift in the Que Son Valley (where they received a second Presidential Unit Citation), and Firebase Ross / 3rd Battalion was deployed for the 2003 invasion of Iraq / The battalion was again deployed in 2004 to capture the city of Fallujah from insurgents' control / In November 2004, the battalion, along with several other units, participated in Operation Phantom Fury (also known as Al Fajr (Dawn)) and was part of one of the biggest battles in Iraq to that time / Members of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, conducted operations in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom between September 2010 and April 2011

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 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 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



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authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The 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:** **GENNOCRO**  
**DONALD**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Donald Gennocro honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam / Corporal Gennocro served six years in the U.S. Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Gennocro is a member of the East Seneca Fire Company / Donald Gennocro served as a part-time Crossing Guard



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GENNUSO**  
**FRANK**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Frank Gennuso honorably served in the United States Army Reserve

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Gennuso graduated from Holy Angels Grammar School, Bishop Fallon High School, and Gannon University / Gennuso worked in the food service equipment and design industry / Frank Gennuso passed away on 22 February 2025 at the age of 80 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GEORGE**

**WILLIAM**

**B.**

**Hometown:** MARILLA

**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:**

William B. George honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William George was a member of the Marilla Veteran's Club and a lifetime member of the Marilla Volunteer Fire Company / William B. George passed away on 11 March 2025 at the age of 90 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GERACI, JR.

PHILIP H.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Philip H. Geraci, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Philip H. Geraci, Jr. passed away on 15 September 2024 at the age of 79 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GERBEC

ROBERT L.

**Hometown:** TOWN OF TONAWANDA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert L. Gerbec honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Gerbec graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School in 1965 / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Gerbec moved to Niagara County in 1975 / Robert Gerbec was employed as the Vice President of Erie Metal Specialties, in Akron, New York, until his retirement in 2019 / Gerbec was a member of the Wheatfield Veteran's Group, the Wheatfield Beautification Committee, served as a Councilman and also on the Zoning Board, member of the Wheatfield Republican Committee, past president and chief of the Bergholz Fire Company, past president of the Niagara County Fire Chiefs Association, past president and EMT with Tri-Community Ambulance Service / Robert L. Gerbec passed away on 12 February 2024 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Lewiston, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GERSPACH III**

**PETER J.**

**Hometown:** EGGERTSVILLE

**Address:** 19 MEADOW LEA DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Peter Joseph Gerspach, III honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Peter Gerspach was deployed to Vietnam on 3 May 1967 as an Infantryman, assigned to a Green Beret unit / SP4 Peter Gerspach was Killed In Action on 25 May 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 25 May 1967, during Operation MALHEUR, the 1st Battalion fought several engagements with the enemy several kilometers southeast of Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province / During the fire fights nine men were killed in action, one of the casualties was SP4 Peter Gerspach who was killed by hostile small arms fire

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter Gerspach was a 1964 graduate of Seneca Vocational High School / Gerspach enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1966 / Peter Joseph Gerspach, III was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park and Resthaven Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Peter Joseph Gerspach, III is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 20e, Line 102



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

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

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry were deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965, where they were joined by the rest of the division in late 1967 / In October 1968, the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson / The 327th Infantry Regiment has also been deployed in the Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan

The 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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GERSTENMYER  
JOHN

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John Gerstenmyer honorably served in the United States Army / John Gerstenmyer was deployed to Vietnam / Gerstenmyer was a parachutist and completed 42 combat jumps / John Gerstenmyer was wounded while on duty, and he lost his leg

Previous duty assignments for John Gerstenmyer included Arizona and Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Gerstenmyer worked for the City of Buffalo for 34 years as a Principal Engineer in charge of building Maintenance for over 173 buildings / Gerstenmyer was honored for his lifetime of service and granted the AARP's Wish of a Lifetime program / John Gerstenmyer asked for and was granted a military luncheon for his military veteran friends



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GETTINGS**

**MICHAEL J.**

**Hometown:** EAST AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

125TH AIR TRAFFIC COMPANY (ATC)

361ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant (E-4) Michael J. Gettings honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Michael Gettings was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months as a Radio & Teletype Operator

SGT Michael Gettings received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 5 April 1969

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Gettings drove for the Disabled American Veterans and Rural Transit in Clarence / Michael J. Gettings passed away on 15 October 2023 at the age of 76 years old

Radio and Teletype Operators are proficient operating radioteletype, facsimile, and data intercept and recording equipment, as well as non-Morse intercept and associated equipment / The operator also assists in the establishment of operational sites and maintains the technical data base in support of collection operations / Operators supervise non-Morse intercept activities and allocate collection resources per mission priorities

The 125th Air Traffic Control (ATC) Company was deployed to Vietnam to provide non-divisional Air Traffic Control and Flight Following for all US Army Aviation / Each of the Divisions(1st Cav, 1st Div. 4th Div. 25th Div. etc.) deployed to Vietnam had their own organic Air Traffic Control Company for their Division's use / The 125th ATC Company was a unit of several hundred men, initially, but grew to over 400 by 1970 / Each of the platoons



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were assigned to a Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Corps area

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade is a Combat Aviation Brigade of the United States Army / It was first organized as the 12th Aviation Group at Fort Moore, Georgia, on 18 June 1965 / The unit deployed to Vietnam in August 1965 to command non-organic Army aviation units, and by November 1965, the group consisted of 11,000 personnel and 34 aviation units / Assigned to the Military Region III in Vietnam, the 12th Group was the largest unit of its type to serve in combat / The unit earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Vietnamese Crosses for Gallantry with Palm, and the Vietnamese Civic Action Medal, First Class while in Vietnam

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

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

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



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**Name:** **GETTY**

**DONALD C.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Donald C. Getty honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Getty retired from the University of Buffalo / Donald C. Getty passed away on 2 August 2024 at the age of 86 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GIARAFFA

ROBERT J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

27TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Robert Joseph Giaraffa honorably served in the United States Army as a Heavy Vehicle Driver

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Giaraffa was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / Robert J. Giaraffa passed away on 31 March 2015 at the age of 67 years old

The mission of the 27th Transportation Battalion was to provide daily movements control and transportation services / In October 1965, the unit deployed from Fort Eustis to Vietnam / Initially stationed in Qui Nhon under the Qui Nhon Sub Command, the Battalion hauled supplies daily from the port over 100 miles through the central Highlands to Pleiku / Over 200 trucks made the trip each day supplying soldiers in the Central Highlands with JP4, ammunition, food and other commodities / A year later the unit moved to Phu Tai under the command of the 8th Transportation Group, where it remained until departing Vietnam / While in Vietnam, the unit was involved in 16 campaigns, earning 16 Campaign Streamers, 4 Meritorious Unit Commendations and Streamers, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star Streamer / Additionally, a soldier assigned to the Battalion's 359th Transportation Company earned the Medal of Honor / Specialist Fourth Class Larry G. Dahl, a machine gunner aboard a gun truck, threw himself upon an enemy grenade during an ambush to save the lives of the other members of the crew / The 27th Transportation Battalion departed Vietnam on 10 May 1972 and was inactivated the next day at Oakland Army Base, California



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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GIARDINA  
STEFANO**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 143 LIVINGSTON AVENUE

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 20TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Stefano Giardina honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Stefano Giardina was deployed to Vietnam on 20 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Stefano Giardina was Killed In Action on 10 June 1970 as a result of wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat action in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stefano Giardina was born in Italy, immigrating to the United States at the age of 7 years old / Stefano Giardina was a graduate of School 19 and Lafayette High School / Giardina enlisted in the U.S. Army after working for nearly a year at the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors in Tonawanda and Bethlehem Steel Corp in Lackawanna / Stefano Giardina was killed in Vietnam six months after becoming a United States citizen / Stefano Giardina was 21 years old at the time of his passing

Stefano Giardina is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 38

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



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

The 11th Infantry Brigade is an inactive infantry brigade of the United States Army / It was first formed as part of the 6th Division during World War I / It is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division from 1967 through 1971 in the Vietnam War as a light infantry brigade / The 11th Infantry Brigade was deployed to South Vietnam in December 1967 due to a need for additional American troops there and during the Vietnam War served in the United States Army's 23rd Infantry Division (called the Americal Division) / For its service in Vietnam, the entire 11th was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for 1969 and 1970 / The brigade was inactivated at Fort Lewis on 30 November 1971

The 20th Infantry was organized by direction of President Abraham Lincoln on 14 May, 1861 / During the Civil War, The Unit fought under General Sykes' Division of Regulars in some of the bloodiest battles of the conflict. In the Second Battle of Bull Run / the Regiment charged Stonewall Jackson's Brigade with fixed bayonets to cover the retreat of the Union Army / The 20th Infantry fought in the Spanish American War, border patrol in America during World War I and participated in the campaigns of New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II / The main body of the 1st Battalion 20th Light Infantry Battalion shipped out with the 11th Light Infantry Brigade to Republic of Vietnam aboard the USS Gordon and USS Weigel / The 11th Light Infantry Brigade debarked at Qui Nhon on 19 and 22 December 1967 / The 1st Battalion 20th Light Infantry took part in the following Operations: Show Low, Wheeler/Wallowa (the longest running operation of the Vietnam War), Norfolk Victory, Champaign Grove, Logan Field, Vernon Lake II, Iron Mountain (Phases I II III), and Finney Hill / The Battalion conducted combat action against NVA and Main force units as they worked with ARVN Forces in the Pacification Program in their Area of Operation / The 20th Infantry ended their Combat Mission in Vietnam on 4 October 1971 and was deactivated in Fort Lewis

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GIBBS

CHARLES E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 245 GROTE STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH MARINES, A 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:**

Private First-Class Charles Edward Gibbs honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Charles Gibbs was deployed to Vietnam on 28 February 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Charles Gibbs was Killed In Action after suffering fatal wounds from stepping on a land mine on 6 May 1968 in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Gibbs attended School 73 and Boy's Vocational High School before enlisting in the Marine Corps on 1 June 1967 / Charles Edward Gibbs was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Charles Edward Gibbs is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 56e, Line 7

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



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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

The 27th Marine Regiment (27th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / They fought during the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II and again for a short time during the Vietnam War / The regiment was inactivated on 10 January 1946 at the end of World War II, after the surrender of Japan / The 27th Marines was again reactivated during the Vietnam War on 1 January 1966, but was mainly used as a pool for new replacements before they went overseas / The 1st Battalion based at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii was the only battalion with personnel assigned in 1966 / On 12 February 1968 in response to the Tet Offensive, the 27th Marine Regiment was deployed to Da Nang, South Vietnam / At the end of March 1968, 1/27th Marines was moved north to provide security of Route 1 between Huế and Phu Bai Combat Base and the protection of Tân Mỹ Base / While the regiment was preparing for its redeployment to the U.S. in August 1968 the Viet Cong launched their Phase III offensive and 1st Battalion participated in the defense of Da Nang Air Base / On 12 September 1968, the first planeload of Regiment Marines left for Okinawa and on 17 September 1968 the last of 1st Battalion, 27th Marines arrived in Hawaii

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



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## 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

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

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

**Name:** GIBBS

JEFFREY J.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Jeffrey J. Gibbs honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jeffrey Gibbs held various jobs, working at American Sales, Protocol Restaurant and Brennan's Bowery Bar / Jeffrey J. Gibbs passed away on 20 January 2026 at the age of 73 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GIBSON**  
**EDWARD**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1LT

**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:**

First-Lieutenant Edward Gibson honorably served in the United States Army / 1LT Edward Gibson was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery under enemy fire

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Gibson passed away on 27 October 2020 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, 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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government



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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GIER**

**GARY J.**

**Hometown:** EDEN

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Gary J. Gier honorably served in the United States Army as a Combat Infantryman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Gary Gier went to work for Jim Ball GMC in Orchard Park / Gier was a mechanic for over 42 years, retiring in 2009 / Gary Gier was a member of the American Legion Post #527 and Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #1419 / Gary J. Gier passed away on 20 March 2024 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Eden, New York

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

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GIES, JR.

CHARLES

G

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Charles G. Gies, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Gies was a retired Foreman with the Town of Cheektowaga Facilities Department / Charles G. Gies, Jr. passed away on 25 June 2024 at the age of 78 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GIGANTE**

**DARYL A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS  
1ST BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Daryl A. Gigante honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Daryl Gigante was assigned as a Field Radio Mechanic and served a 12-month deployment in South Vietnam from July 1970-July 1971, where he was assigned to 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

SGT Daryl Gigante received his Honorable Discharge from active duty on 28 July 1971

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daryl Gigante was employed by Dunlap Tire until his retirement / Daryl AS. Gigante was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / Daryl A. Gigante passed away on 5 March 2022

The 506th Infantry Regiment, formed at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, in 1942, was originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, as an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / The regiment served with the 101st Airborne Division in World War II / Regimental elements have served with the 101st in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan / Regimental



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elements have also served in peacetime with the 2nd Infantry Division, and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom / The World War II actions of the regiment's Company E ("Easy Company") were portrayed in the 2001 HBO miniseries Band of Brothers

The 101st Airborne Division is a light infantry division of the United States Army specializing in air assault operations / The Screaming Eagles were referred to as "the tip of the spear" and the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize key terrain and can work in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances and engaging enemy forces behind enemy lines / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept it in the vanguard of U.S. land combat forces in many conflicts; World War II, Korea, Vietnam and counterterrorism operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GILBERT  
OLIN**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Olin Gilbert honorably served in the United States Military / Olin Gilbert was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GITTERE**

**WILLIAM J.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William J. Gittere honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Gittere was a lifelong HAM (Amateur Radio) Radio Operator / Gittere was a member of American Legion Post #838 / William J. Gittere passed away on 23 July 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GLASS

JERRY

D.

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

64TH ARMORED REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Jerry Douglas Glass honorably served in the United States Army / Jerry Douglas was deployed for 18 months with the 64th Armored Division in Europe

Jerry Douglas was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 19 February 1969 with reserve obligation concluding 8 March 1973

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Jerry Glass was born in Biggers, Arkansas / Jerry Douglas Glass passed away on 13 November 2024 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The 64th Armor Regiment is an armor regiment of the United States Army, organized under the United States Army Regimental System / It is descended from the 758th Tank Battalion (Light) that served in the Italian campaign during World War II. Redesignated as the 64th Tank Battalion, it was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War and it spent most of the Cold War stationed in West Germany before elements were transferred to Ft. Stewart, Georgia in the late 1990s / The regiment participated in Desert Shield, Desert



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Storm, Desert Fox, Desert Spring, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GLAVIN**  
**JOHN** **C.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John C. Glavin honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Glavin was a Meals on Wheels Volunteer / John C. "Jack" Glavin passed away on 10 April 2023 at the age of 84 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GLIM

RALPH T.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 65 LINDEN STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 319TH ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Ralph Theodore Glim honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Ralph Glim was deployed to Vietnam 10 November 1970 as a Power Generation Equipment Operator-Mechanic / SP4 Ralph Glim was Killed In Action on 17 December 1970 from an accidental explosion in Thua Thien province

Specialist Fourth-Class Ralph Glim maintained the critically important divisional artillery generators / Widely used throughout the division's tactical area of responsibility, they powered the AN/TPS-25 Moving Target Location Radar (MTLR), a transportable battlefield ground surveillance radar which detected the presence of moving targets and supplied range and azimuth information / On 15 December 1970, a little over a month after arriving in Vietnam, SP4 Glim was pulled from his generator maintenance duties to assist in clearing the edges of the perimeter at Camp Evans, a 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division base located to the west of National Route QL-1, approximately 14.4 miles northwest of Hue in Thua Thien Province, RVN / Maintaining clear fields of fire on the perimeters of bases was an urgent matter and enlisted personnel from a variety of units were assigned this duty / At approximately 8:45 AM, SP4 Glim was cutting grass on the bunker line when a dud 40mm M79 grenade round was detonated / He was fatally injured after sustaining metal fragmentation wounds to the chest, neck, and head / SP4 Ralph Glim was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for merit

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Belvoir is a United States Army installation in Fairfax County, Virginia, United States / The post was founded



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

## *Miscellaneous:*

Ralph Glim was a 1968 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School / Glim was attending Niagara Community College and working at the Chevrolet - Tonawanda Division of General Motors before being drafted into the U.S. Army / Ralph Theodore Glim was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Ralph Theodore Glim is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06w, Line 122

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

The 2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment ("2-319 AFAR") is the field artillery battalion that is assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Nicknamed "Black Falcons", 2-319 AFAR has participated in battles from World War I to the current day / The 319th Field Artillery participated in three major campaigns during World War I / The 319th participated in all six World War II campaigns of the 82nd Airborne Division, including assault landings in Normandy and the Netherlands / 2-319 deployed to Vietnam with the 101st Division Artillery during Operation Eagle Thrust from 3 December 1967 to 18 December 1967 / The 2-319 AFAR departed Vietnam on 20 December 1971 as part of Increment X of the US Army withdrawal from Vietnam / The 2-319 AFAR was inactivated and relieved from assignment to the 101st Airborne Division on 31 July 1972 / It would remain inactive until 1986



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter 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 Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

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

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S.



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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:** **GLOR**

**DANIEL A.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Daniel A. Glor honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel Glor retired from General Motors / Glor was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #5260, Springville, New York / Daniel A. Glor passed away on 19 May 2026 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GLOR**

**JAMES**

**H.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James H. Glor honorably served in the United States Navy, Army and Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Glor was Past President of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club and member of the Town of Lancaster Office of Emergency Services / James H. Glor passed away on 27 December 2023 at the age of 74 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GLOSS**  
**ROBERT**

**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:**

Robert "Bob" Gloss honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Gloss was a member of the Disabled Veterans Association / Robert "Bob" Gloss passed away on 23 January 2026



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GLOWACKI**

**DANIEL N.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 109 NORTH OGDEN STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1ST LT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 8TH BATTALION, 6TH ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant Daniel Norbert Glowacki honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Daniel Glowacki was deployed to Vietnam on 30 January 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 1st LT Daniel Glowacki was killed in a helicopter crash on 4 July 1968 during a reconnaissance mission in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

On 4 July 1968, two U.S. Army OH-6A helicopters from D Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, were involved in a mid-air collision six miles northeast of Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Five persons were killed in the accident, including D Troop's Commanding Officer, Major Frederick G. Terry Jr., and D Troop artillery liaison officer, First Lieutenant Daniel N. Glowacki / Major Terry's mission was to fly the Command and Control OH-6A ship (#67-16018) for the helicopters of D Troop, 1/4 Cav, which were supporting a mechanized infantry (2nd Battalion [Mechanized], 2nd Infantry) / At approximately 8:10 AM, First Lieutenant Raymond Bosworth, Jr. flying an OH-6A helicopter (#66-7854), departed Lai Khe for the same area of operations to serve as Scout Team leader / At 8:50 AM, the command vehicle of company B Company, 2nd Bn (Mech), 2nd Inf, hit a mine injuring five personnel / Major Terry monitored the ground units' call for a "dustoff" medical evacuation helicopter and proceeded to the area / Major Terry also called Lieutenant Bosworth on the radio and requested that he proceed to the same area with his Scout Team / Lieutenant Bosworth entered an area approximately three miles to the east of where the vehicle hit the mine / Meanwhile, Major Terry's helicopter was flying in the same general direction as Lieutenant Bosworth's helicopter but to the left rear and approximately fifty feet higher and descending at a greater speed than Lieutenant Bosworth's helicopter / When Lieutenant Bosworth's



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helicopter suddenly completed a 180-degree right turn, Major Terry's helicopter overtook it and they collided / Both aircraft crashed to the ground, with Major Terry's helicopter approximately 135 feet from the other aircraft / First Lieutenant Daniel N. Glowacki, Major Frederick G. Terry Jr. and Specialist Larry E. Collier died on impact / First Lieutenant Raymond Bosworth, Jr. and Specialist Fourth-Class Dirk J. Westra perished after their OH-6A caught fire and burned

Daniel Norbert Glowacki received his officer's commission after attending Officers Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

## *Base Assignments:*

Fort Sill, Oklahoma - Fort Sill is a United States Army post north of Lawton, Oklahoma, about 85 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. It covers almost 94,000 acres / The fort was first built in 1869 during the Indian Wars and was home to the 7th Cavalry, the 19th Kansas Volunteers and the 10th Cavalry, a distinguished group of black "buffalo soldiers" / It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and serves as home of the United States Army Field Artillery School, as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / Ft. Sill has played a significant role in every major American conflict since 1869

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

## *Miscellaneous:*

Daniel Glowacki graduated from Bishop Turner High School in 1963 / Glowacki enlisted in the U.S. Army on 28 February 1966 while a student at the University of Buffalo / Daniel Norbert Glowacki was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel Norbert Glowacki is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53w, Line 10

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

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / During its involvement in the Vietnam War, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners of war / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

The 6th Field Artillery Regiment is a Field Artillery Branch regiment of the United States Army first activated in 1907 from numbered companies of artillery / It was first organized with two battalions

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

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

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

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



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sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GODIOS**

**EUGENE**

**G.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1959

**Year Discharged:** 1961

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Eugene G. "Gene" Godios honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Eugene Godios was assigned as a Personnel Specialist with the Adjutant General's Corps / SP-4 Godios served 23 months active duty including 18 months Foreign Service

Eugene Godios was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 24 February 1961 with reserve obligations completed 17 March 1965

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Eugene Godios worked a number of years for Bethlehem Steel / Later, Godios transitioned into working with the Private Industry Counsel as a Human Resources Consultant / Eugene G. "Gene" Godios passed away on 2 February 2026 at the age of 89 years old

The Adjutant General's Corps, formerly the Adjutant General's Department, is a branch of the United States Army first established in 1775 / The Adjutant General's Corps dates back to the formation of the U.S. Army / Horatio Gates, a former British Army officer, is recognized as the father of the Adjutant General's Corps / On 16 June 1775, the Continental Congress appointed him as the first Adjutant General to George Washington with the commission of a brigadier general / Historically, he was the second officer to receive a commission in the Continental Army, preceded only by George Washington / With that appointment, the second oldest existing branch of the Army was born / This branch provides personnel service support by manning the force, providing human resources (HR) services, coordinating personnel support, Army band operations, and recruiting and



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retention / The objective of the Adjutant General Corps is to "maximize operational effectiveness of the total force by anticipating, manning, and sustaining military operations / HR support operations accomplish this by building, generating, and sustaining the force providing combatant commanders the required forces for missions and supporting leaders and Soldiers at all levels

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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GOLWITZER**

**RONALD A.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 861-B LANGFIELD DRIVE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SFC

**Year Entered:** 1950

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 14TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant First-Class Ronald Anthony Golwitzer honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Ronald Golwitzer was deployed to Vietnam on 15 January 1967 as a Tactical Communication Chief / SFC Ronald Golwitzer was Killed In Action on 22 August 1968 from wounds suffered from small arms fire in Gia Dinh province, South Vietnam

On 22 August 1968, Sergeant First-Class Golwitzer was riding in a pedicab in Saigon, South Vietnam when he was shot and killed by a Vietnamese on a motorbike / The assailant disappeared into the traffic

SFC Ronald Golwitzer served in the U.S. Army for nearly 19 years and served in the Korean War in 1950

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Golwitzer was a graduate of Seneca Vocational High School / Ronald Anthony Golwitzer was 39 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Ronald Anthony Golwitzer is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 47w, Line 28



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A Tactical Communication Chief in the army plays a crucial role in ensuring effective communication within military units / Tactical communications are military communications in which information of any kind, especially orders and military intelligence, are conveyed from one command, person, or place to another upon a battlefield, particularly during the conduct of combat

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

The 14th Infantry Regiment ("Golden Dragons") is a United States Army light infantry regiment / It has served in the American Civil War, Boxer Rebellion, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Joint Guard, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Gothic Serpent, Operation New Dawn, Operation Resolute Support, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / The 14th Infantry Regiment did not take part in combat during World War I / It has also conducted peacekeeping and humanitarian missions in the Sinai Peninsula, Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, Bosnia, and Kosovo / In its over four years of combat in Vietnam, the 2nd Battalion received participation credit for 12 of the campaigns of the Vietnam War / The battalion received two awards of the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and one award of the Vietnam Civic Action Medal First Class / On 8 December 1970 the 2nd Battalion left South Vietnam and returned to Schofield Barracks / The battalion was inactivated on 5 June 1972

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

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

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



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed



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

Name: **GONZALES**

**DAVID C.**

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

David C. "Gunner" Gonzales honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David C. "Gunner" Gonzales passed away on 23 October 2025 at the age of 73 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GOODMAN  
JOHN

**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:**

John Goodman honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, John Goodman had a career with American Airlines as an aircraft mechanic-inspector / John Goodman passed away on 24 March 2024 at the age of 89 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GOODSPEED**

**GARY**

**A.**

**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:**

Gary A. Goodspeed honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary A. Goodspeed passed away on 8 October 2024 at the age of 80 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORDON**  
**ALAN**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Alan Gordon honorably served in the United States Military / Alan Gordon was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORDON**  
**PAUL F.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Paul F. Gordon honorably served in the United States Military / Paul Gordon was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORDON, SR.**

**JAMES**

**D.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** FN

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1975

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Fireman James D. Gordon, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James D. Gordon, Sr. passed away on 23 January 2023 at the age of 74 years old

Naval Fireman stand power plant and ship security watches both while in port and underway / While performing watches, they will ensure all safety standards are being met with any associated engineering machinery / They are responsible for working with safety and fire suppression equipment / A Fireman preserves, maintains, and repairs the safety equipment and any other associated equipment to prepare for underway operations / Firefighters in the Navy assist putting out fires on ships, rescuing service members and their families and providing emergency medical care / In addition to performing maintenance on the equipment, they will also perform any emergency equipment repair



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GORE

ROBERT E.

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** LTCOL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Emmett Gore honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War / Lt. Colonel Gore also served with the National Guard and Army Reserve

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Gore was a member of the Korean War Memorial Committee / Gore served the Buffalo Public School System for 30 years as an Attendance Teacher / Robert Emmett Gore passed away on 26 November 2023 at the age of 94 years old, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease / Robert Gore is interred at Elmwood Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

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

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / The Army Reserve is meant to augment the needs of the active duty force in times of conflict or declared war / Army Reserve soldiers can complete part-time service alongside civilian life / The U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) is responsible for all of the operational tasks involved in training, equipping, managing, supporting, mobilizing and retaining Soldiers under its command



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORETSKI**  
**CARL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Carl Goretski honorably served in the United States Military / Carl Goretski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORETSKI  
LAWRENCE**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lawrence Goretski honorably served in the United States Military / Lawrence Goretski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORETSKI**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORKO**

**ROBERT L.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert Leon Gorko honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Leon Gorko passed away on 13 November 2025 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORMAN**  
**WILLIAM**

**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:**

William "Bill" Gorman honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Europe

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Gorman graduated from Timon High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, William Gorman joined the Buffalo Fire Company and assigned to Engine 32, Ladder 5 at the firehouse on Seneca & Swan Streets / William "Bill" Gorman passed away on 29 August 2025 at the age of 87 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GORRELL**

**BILLY**

**J**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:** STONY POINT ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Billy J. Gorrell honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Billy J. Gorrell passed away on 31 March 2025 at the age of 86 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:** GORSKI

JOHN T.

**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: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

John T. "Jack" Gorski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John T. "Jack" Gorski passed away on 26 June 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GOSS**  
**JAMES**

**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:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GOTTA  
LOUIS

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Louis Gotta honorably served in the United States Military / Louis Gotta was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GOURDIN, JR.**  
**WALTER**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Walter Gourdin, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Walter Gourdin, Jr. passed away on 1 August 1988 at the age of 42 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GOURLAY**

**WILLIAM**

**G.**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

William G. Gourlay honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Gourlay retired from the Erie County Sheriff's Office / William G. Gourlay passed away on 28 December 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GOZDZIK**

**DAVID P.**

**Hometown:** GETZVILLE

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

David P. Gozdzik honorably served in the United States Army with the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Gozdzik was a Knight of the 3rd Degree with the Kenmore Council, Knights of Columbus / David P. Gozdzik passed away on 25 September 2024 at the age of 78 years old

A Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol, or LRRP, is a small, well-armed reconnaissance team that patrols deep in enemy-held territory / In December 1965, the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, formed a LRRP platoon, and by April 1966, the 1st Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division and each of the four Battalions of the 173rd Airborne Brigade formed LRRP units as well / On 8 July 1966, General William Westmoreland authorized the formation of a (LRRP) unit in each infantry brigade or division in Vietnam / By 1967 formal LRRP companies were organized, most having three platoons, each with five six-man teams equipped with VHF/FM AN/PRC-25 radios / LRRP training was notoriously rigorous and team leaders were often graduates of the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Recondo School in Nha Trang, Vietnam / Tiger Force was the nickname of an infamous long-range reconnaissance patrol unit of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division, which fought in the Vietnam War, and was responsible for counterinsurgency operations against the North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) and Viet Cong



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRACZYK

RICHARD B.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Richard B. Graczyk honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Graczyk attended the University of Buffalo, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology and continued his education at Canisius College, earning Masters Degree in Education / Richard Graczyk taught for 28 years at Grand Island Central as a Science Teacher / Graczyk was a member of the American Legion Post #0264 in Tonawanda / Richard B. Graczyk passed away on 22 December 2021 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRAHAM, SR.

DAVID W.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

David W. Graham, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / David Graham was a veteran of the Berlin Crisis and retired from the Army Reserves after 29 years of service

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Graham retired from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute after 36 years where he was employed as a Senior Cancer Research Technician / Graham was a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologist / David Graham was a member of American Legion Post #205 / David W. Graham, Sr. passed away on 20 September 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRAMZA**  
**RONALD** **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:*

**Service Notes:**

Ronald Leonard "Ron" Gramza honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Gramza made a career in carpentry and cabinetry / Ronald Leonard "Ron" Gramza passed away on 18 July 2021 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRANDE**  
**DONALD R.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Donald R. Grande honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald R. Grande passed away on 10 June 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRANDY**  
**GERALD**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, SCHOOL BRIGADE, U.S. ARMY SOUTH EASTERN SIGNAL SCHOOL

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth Class Gerald "Bootsie" Grandy honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Gerald Grandy was assigned as a Radio and Teletype Operator attached to the US Army Signal Corps

SP4 Gerald Grandy was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 21 May 1970

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gerald Grandy retired from National Fuel after 35 years / Grandy was a former Vice President of Local #2154 / Gerald "Bootsie" Grandy passed away on 13 May 2021

Radio and Teletype Operators are proficient operating radioteletype, facsimile, and data intercept and recording equipment, as well as non-Morse intercept and associated equipment / The operator also assists in the establishment of operational sites and maintains the technical data base in support of collection operations / Operators supervise non-Morse intercept activities and allocate collection resources per mission priorities

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

In June 1962, all activities of the Signal Corps Training Center were reorganized under the U.S. Army Southeastern Signal School. Designating the installation the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, the Army consolidated all communications training at Fort Gordon on October 1, 1974

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRANICA  
JUDD

**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:**

Judd Granica honorably served in the United States Military / Judd Granica was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRASSO

ANTHONY T.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

77TH ARMOR REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Anthony T. Grasso honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Anthony Grasso was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Anthony Grasso was cited twice for acts of heroism, awarded the Bronze Star and the Air Medal

Anthony Grasso received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 20 February 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Anthony T. Grasso passed away on 13 March 2024 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 77th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The 77th Armor Regiment is part of the U.S. Army Regimental System with only a single battalion, the 1st Battalion / July 1968, the 1st Battalion 77th Armor (1-77) deployed from Fort Carson Colorado USA to Wunder Beach, Quảng Trị Province, South Vietnam / In mid-August, the Battalion deployed to positions in Leatherneck Square south of the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in support of 3rd Marine Division infantry operations during heavy fighting / From time to time in 1969, the 77th participated in 3d Marine Division operations on the Khe Sanh plains and up to the vicinity of the DMZ with the US Marines / In total, the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor participated in eight campaigns during its tour in Vietnam / The 77th Armor is currently stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas as part of the 3rd Brigade "Bulldogs", 1st Armored Division and has transformed from a tank pure battalion into a combined arms battalion (CAB)

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRASSO  
LAWRENCE

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lawrence Grasso honorably served in the United States Military / Lawrence Grasso was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRAVES**

**GERALD R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSG

**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:**

Staff Sergeant Gerald R. George honorably served in the United States Army / SSG Gerald Graves was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRAWE**  
**RONALD W.**

**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:**

Ronald W. Grawe honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Grawe retired from General Motors, Tonawanda Engine Plant, after 30 years / Grawe started on the machine floor as a Tool Setter and was responsible for machining parts of each engine block / Ronald Grawe was sent to Japan and Germany to oversee the building of machinery being manufactured to become the components of a new engine machine floor and assembly line / Ronald W. Grawe passed away 16 August 2025 at the age of 76 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GREENAUER**

**RICHARD F.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard F. Greenauer honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Richard Greenauer went to work for American Precision as a Machinist, retiring in 2017 / Greenauer was a member of Slowroll Buffalo and Slow Spokes biking clubs / Richard F. Greenauer passed away on 23 April 2024 at the age of 71 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GREGORIO**  
**DANIEL M.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CMDR

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1991

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Commander Daniel M. Gregorio honorably served in the United States Navy / Commander Daniel Gregorio was a Retired Commander with the United States Coast Guard, a United States Navy Veteran and served with the United States Marines Corps in the Korean War / Commander Gregorio served our nation during the period of 1951-1991 / His first 4 years from 1951-1955 were as an active-duty Navy Corpsman assigned to a Marine Corps Special Ops unit in Korea / Gregorio then enlisted in the Naval Reserve stationed at Naval Air Station, Niagara Falls, and in 1962 enlisted in the US Coast Guard Reserve, serving during the Vietnam War / From 1983-1985 Commander Gregorio served as Commanding Officer for the USCG Reserve Unit in Erie PA, and he was the first Commanding Officer at USCG Reserve Niagara River, which was commissioned in 1988 / CMDR Gregorio served there until his retirement on 6 October 1991

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel M. Gregorio passed away at the age of 90 years old on 15 February 2022 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

The Coast Guard Commendation Medal is a mid-level United States military decoration that is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service within the Coast Gard forces



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOT-SM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was created through Executive Order 13289 on 12 March 2003, by President George W. Bush / The medal recognizes those military service members who have supported operations to counter terrorism in the War on Terror from 11 September 2001

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

Commander Daniel M. Gregorio was also awarded the following Military Medals:

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950 by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954

The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea"

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 Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to units of the United Nations Command for service in Korea during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954 / In recognition of allied military service to South Korea during the Korean War, all United States military departments were authorized the unit award for that period

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954

The Coast Guard Achievement Medal was established on 29 January 1964, by Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon / The award was initially established as the Coast Guard Commendation for Achievement Ribbon and was redesignated as the Coast Guard Achievement Medal on 11 June 1968 / It is awarded for any member the Armed Forces serving alongside the Coast Guard whose service goes above and beyond the bounds of regular duty performance in a non-combat situation

The Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation was established in 1973, and is awarded in the name of the Commandant of the Coast Guard / It may be awarded to any unit of the Coast Guard that has distinguished itself by either valorous or meritorious achievement or service in support of Coast Guard operations not involving combat / The Commandant may also bestow the award upon a unit of another branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, provided the unit meets the standards established for Coast Guard units / To justify the award, the service performed as a unit must be comparable to that which would meet the award of a Coast Guard Achievement Medal to an individual / Normal performance of duty or participation in a large number of operational missions does not in itself justify the award / It will not be awarded to a large unit for actions of one or more of its sub-units unless the entire unit performed as a team

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces that has existed since 1950 / The medal recognizes service performed by members of the reserve components and is awarded to both officers and enlisted personnel / The medal is considered a successor award to the Naval Reserve Medal and the Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon, which were discontinued in 1958 and 1967, respectively / If the medal is awarded for periods of service, it is accompanied by an hourglass device / Depending on the length of service, a bronze, silver, gold, or bronze and gold hourglass are worn on the suspension ribbon and service ribbon, indicating 10, 20, 30, or 40 years of service, respectively

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GREINER**

**DONALD H.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 86 GRANT STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Donald Henry Greiner honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donald Greiner was deployed to Vietnam on 23 September 1968 as an Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Donald Greiner was Killed In Action on 14 November 1968 by small arms fire during combat operations near Da Nang in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Sergeant Donald Henry Greiner was a graduate of the the Non-Commissioned Officer Training School at Ft. Benning, Georgia

**Base Assignments:**

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

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was re-named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and



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encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

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

### *Miscellaneous:*

Donald Greiner was a graduate of Hutchinson Central Technical High School and Erie County Technical Institute / Greiner enlisted in the United States Army in October 1967 / Donald Henry Greiner was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Donald Henry Greiner is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39w, Line 64

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

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially



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departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / During its involvement in the Vietnam War, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners of war / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

The 2nd Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army that has served for more than two hundred years / It was constituted on 12 April 1808 as the 6th Infantry and consolidated with 4 other regiments in 1815 to form the present unit / In September 1965 the First and Second battalions deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vung Tau in October 1965 / From there they proceeded to their assigned areas, Phuoc Vinh for the 1st Battalion and Lai Khe for the 2nd Battalion / The battalions initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon / On 2 January 1967 the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / The 1st Battalion sustained its first major casualties of the war on 21 December 1965 when the enemy ambushed the command group of Company B as the company was moving out of Bien Hoa on routine patrol / On 25 August 1966 during Operation Amarillo a patrol from Company C, 1st Battalion was ambushed after stumbling into a Viet Cong base camp, losing 6 men killed of the 15-man patrol, total US losses in the operation were 41 killed, 45 Viet Cong bodies were found, while later intelligence indicated that Viet Cong losses were 171 men killed / During four and a half years the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bu Dop (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Loc, and An Loc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / Contact with the enemy was almost daily / When the 1st Infantry Division stood down in March and April 1970 the 1st and 2nd Battalion's colors were cased and the soldiers were either reassigned to other units in Vietnam or returned to the United States to be discharged

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRIESINGER**  
**JIM**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Jim Griesinger honorably served in the United States Military / Jim Griesinger was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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**Name:** GRIFASI

JAMES A.

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:** 38 CALVIN COURT SOUTH

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY, E COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant James Anthony Grifasi honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT James Grifasi was deployed to Vietnam 14 September 1969 as an Infantry Operations & Intelligence Specialist / SSG James Grifasi was Killed In Action on 26 March 1970 as a result of small arms fire during a combat operation in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

It was reported that Staff Sergeant James Grifasi was killed when he was mistaken for an enemy combatant / Friendly fire, 3 km W of Tay Ninh Base Camp (Coffelt Database)

SSG James Grifasi was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

SSG James Grifasi was a graduate of the the Non-Commissioned Officer Training School at Ft. Benning, Georgia

**Base Assignments:**

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



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/ The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

## *Miscellaneous:*

James Grifasi was a 1965 graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / Grifasi attended the State University of Buffalo and the University of Tennessee studying engineering before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968 / James Anthony Grifasi was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James Anthony Grifasi is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12w, Line 46

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

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

The 22nd Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment of the United States Army / It was deployed to South Vietnam as part of the 2d Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division and conducted operations in the Central Highlands / It was inactivated in August 1984 at Fort Carson, Colorado / Currently the 2nd Battalion is active, with the regimental colors residing at Fort Drum, New York / The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions have been inactivated

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S.



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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:** GRIFASI

JOSEPH C.

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:** 38 CALVIN COURT SOUTH

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Joseph C. Grifasi honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam for one year

The brother of SGT Joseph Grifasi, SSG James Anthony Grifasi (U.S. Army), was Killed In Action on 26 March 1970 as a result of small arms fire during a combat operation in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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**Name:** **GRITZKE**

**RALPH**

**G.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**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:**

Ralph G. Gritzke honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Ralph Gritzke was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ralph Gritzke retired from Bethlehem Steel as a Foreman after 38 years of service and moved to Chesterton, Indiana / Ralph G. Gritzke passed away on 31 August 2023 at the age of 78 years old

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

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



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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRONDAHL

WILLIAM J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

William J. Grondahl honorably served in the United States Army for 3 years on active duty and 3 years reserve / William Grondahl served 1 year 4 months in Europe as part of a field communication crew responsible for directing US Army operations throughout US Europe Command and US Africa Command Theater

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William J. Grondahl passed away on 4 September 2024 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) (nicknamed Rock of the Marne), is a combined arms division of the United States Army based at Fort Stewart, Georgia / It is a subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps under U.S. Army Forces Command / Its current organization includes a division headquarters and headquarters battalion, two armored brigade combat teams, one aviation brigade, a division artillery, a sustainment brigade and a combat sustainment support battalion along with a maneuver enhancement brigade / The division has a distinguished history, having seen active service in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Global War on Terror / The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 61 members of the 3rd Infantry Division, making the division the most honored in the Army / The division fought in France in World War I and in World War II, it landed with General Patton's task force in a contested amphibious landing on the coast of Morocco, North Africa, overwhelming Vichy French defenders in November 1942 / In 1943, the division invaded Sicily in July, and invaded Italy at Salerno in September, before fighting in France and finally Germany. Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, featured in the Hollywood movie, "To Hell and Back," was a member / The division also served in the Korean War / From 1957 until 1996, the division was a major part of the United States Army's presence in the NATO alliance



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Town of West Seneca, New York

in West Germany

**Name:** **GROSS**

**RICHARD**

**W.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1956

**Year Discharged:** 1958

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard W. Gross honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard W. Gross passed away on 11 March 2024



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GROTKE**

**JOHN**

**W.**

**Hometown:** EDEN

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 BRONZE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal John W. Grotke honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL John Grotke was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months and was assigned as a Personnel Financial Records Clerk

Corporal John Grotke was Honorably Discharged at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Santa Ana, California on 17 October 1969, with reserve obligation concluding 26 October 1973

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Grotke worked and retired from National Fuel Gas of Western New York / John Grotke was a member of the American Legion Post #527 in Hamburg, New York, serving as Post Commander for 7 years / John W. Grotke passed away on 19 June 2025 at the age of 78 years old

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

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



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Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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**Name:** GRUBKA

JAMES H.

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** Army

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (3)

PURPLE HEART

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

**Service Notes:**

James Hilary Grubka honorably served in the United States Army / James Grubka was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat operation in South Vietnam / Grubka was awarded three Bronze Star Medals for acts of valor in combat operations

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, James Grubka went to work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in Audit and Management, working out of Buffalo, New York and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania / Grubka was instrumental in starting the Knights of Columbus Chapter at Immaculate Conception Church in East Aurora, serving as the Grand Knight for several years / James Hilary Grubka passed away on 8 April 2024 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRUDZIEN

HENRY A.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CMC

**Year Entered:** 1958

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

LCU THIRTEEN (LANDING CRAFT UTILITY)  
NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FIVE (SEABEES)

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (VIETNAM)  
NAVY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Command Master Chief Henry Adam Grudzien honorably served in the United States Navy / CMC Henry Grudzien was assigned as a Construction Mechanic (Heavy Constructions) / Grudzien spent five years and nine months of foreign/sea duty including three tours of Vietnam / Command Master Chief Grudzien served a total of twelve years in US Naval Service

Henry Grudzien joined the National Guard at 15 years old and enlisted into the United States Navy at 17 years old

Henry A. Grudzien received his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy on 30 October 1967 and joined the Navy Reserve

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Henry Grudzien became a Corrections Officer for the NYS Dept of Corrections and started his career at Attica Correctional Facility / Henry Adam Grudzien passed away on 4 October 2021

The Landing Craft Utility (LCU) is a type of boat used by amphibious forces to transport equipment and troops to the shore / They are capable of transporting tracked or wheeled vehicles and troops from amphibious assault



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ships to beachheads or piers

Naval Construction Battalion 5 (Seabees) was commissioned on May 25, 1942 at Camp Allen Virginia / The battalion went to Port Hueneme and shipped out for the first of two deployments in the Pacific / In 1944, the Construction Battalion was deployed to the Philippines to build roads and provide water supply / In On July 1951, CB 5 was sent to Korea to construct an airfield, leveling a mountain to make way for a nearly 2-mile long runway / From 1965 to 1972, NMCB FIVE made six consecutive deployments to Vietnam / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand to construct Nam Phong Air Base

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

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces, which was first created in 1961 by Executive Order of President John Kennedy / The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after July 1, 1958, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations

The 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:** GRUGEL  
MARK

**Hometown:**

**Address:** WEST SENECA

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD BATTALION, 187TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

AIR MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Mark Grugel honorably served in the United States Army SP4 Mark Grugel was assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman and deployed to Vietnam for 16 months, attached to the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Mark Grugel moved to Henderson, Nevada / Mark Grugel passed away on 1 November 2021 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Boulder City National Cemetery, Boulder City, Nevada

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 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment (3-187th) ("The Rakkasans") is an infantry battalion in the Third



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Brigade of 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) / The unit is referenced in the King's Ransom module / The regiment received the nickname "The Rakkasans" when deployed during the Japanese Occupation following World War II / The locals wanted to know what the men of the 187th did, but the translator didn't know the word for "parachutist" / He instead used the word for parasol as the basis for "parasol men" / The 187th was selected as an airborne regimental combat team responding to the crisis in Korea / The advance party of the 3rd Battalion of the Rakkasans was the first to arrive in Korea, arriving at Kimpo Airfield on 23 September 1950 / The 187th led the second and last parachute assault in Korea on 23 March 1951 as part of Operation Tomahawk / In December 1967 the 3d Battalion deployed to Vietnam, alongside 1st and 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry / Over the next four years the Iron Rakkasans fought in twelve major campaigns, conducting numerous air assaults and search and destroy missions / During one such mission in March 1968 Captain Paul W. Bucha, commander of D Company, received the Medal of Honor when he crawled through a hail of fire to single-handedly destroy a machine gun bunker with grenades near Phuoc Vinh, Vietnam / The 3-187th participated in the 1969 battle to capture Dong Ap Bia (Hill 937), also known as Hamburger Hill, in the A Shau Valley / The Iron Rakkasans emerged from the Vietnam War as the country's most highly decorated airborne battalion / The 187th Infantry Regiment fought in the Gulf War and the War in Afghanistan

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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:** **GRZECHOWIAK**

**EDWARD A.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1956

**Year Discharged:** 1958

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Edward Anthony Grzechowiak honorably served in the United States Marine Corps as a Baker

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Grzechowiak held many positions in Buffalo city government, including City Clerk / Grzechowiak acted as a confidante to judges, elected officials and several notable celebrities / Grzechowiak owned Eddie G's, a tavern he owned / Edward Grzechowiak was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940 / Grzechowiak moved to St. Petersburg, Florida / Edward Anthony Grzechowiak passed away on 9 March 2021 at the age of 91 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GRZEGOREK**

**JAMES A.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 217 WILLET STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, H S 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:**

Private First-Class James Andrew Grzegorek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James Grzegorek was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman and was scheduled, with other Marines, to relieve the Marine Corps bastion at Khe Sanh / PFC James Grzegorek was killed on 6 March 1968 when the C-123K #54-0590, that he was a passenger on, was shot down by hostile fire 8 kilometers east of Khe Sanh Combat Base, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 6 March 1968, a U.S. Air Force Fairchild C-123 "Provider" was scheduled to fly to Phu Bai Airfield, South Vietnam, some thirty-nine miles northwest of Da Nang, then on to Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province / Aircraft commander LTC Frederick J Hampton, co-pilot 1LT Ellis E Helgeson, and crew chief SGT Jeffrey F Conlin comprised the crew of the C-123K (serial # 54-0590), Mission # 702 / All members of this aircrew were assigned to the 311th Air Cargo Squadron, 315th Air Cargo Wing, Phan Rang Airbase, South Vietnam and were detached to Da Nang Airbase / Mission # 702 departed Da Nang with its cargo for Phu Bai / After off-loading its cargo was accomplished, the aircraft was subsequently loaded with 43 U.S. Marines bound for Khe Sanh / When Mission # 702 departed Phu Bai Airfield, it carried a total of 51 passengers and crew--43 Marines, 1 Navy corpsman, 1 civilian photographer, 3 U.S. Air Force passengers and the 3-man Air Force aircrew / Once in the vicinity of their destination, LTC Hampton established radio contact with ground control and was cleared to land / He initiated his final approach to Khe Sanh's airfield, but was forced to abort the landing because of a South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) light aircraft that obstructed the runway / The Provider circled around at low altitude to set up for



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a second approach / However, as it did so, it was hit by enemy ground fire in the port jet engine / LTC Hampton climbed for altitude as he transmitted their situation and reported that he was returning back to DaNang with battle damage / Shortly thereafter, the Provider spiraled into the ground exploding on impact / The crash site was located in extremely rugged jungle-covered mountains that was dotted with small clearings covered with elephant grass and bamboo just a mile southeast of the base's runway, less than a mile east of the closest point along Route 9, and just north of the closest location on the Song Quang Tri River that nearly encircled the loss location / The crash site was also located approximately 14 miles east of the South Vietnamese-Lao border, 58 miles west-northwest of the Phu Bai Airfield and 100 miles northwest of DaNang Airbase / Due to the tactical situation in and around Khe Sanh, ground search parties first reached the aircraft's wreckage on 26 April 1968 to begin the grizzly task of recovering remains / Other search teams returned to the crash site on 24 June and 3 July 1968 respectively / On each occasion, human remains, dog tags, other identification media and personal effects were recovered / All possible human remains and personal affects that were recovered were transported to the U.S. Army mortuary facility at DaNang for the arduous task of identification / Military morticians were able to positively identify less than half of the men aboard the Provider / Those remains were embalmed and returned to each man's family for burial / They included PFC George E. Beale, PFC Willis Beauford Jr., LCPL John H. Clark, 1LT Ellis E. Helgeson Jr., PFC Ralph E. Higgs, PFC Robert J. Horvath, PFC Harry K. Latshaw, CPL Dennis J. Medeiros, PFC Ronnie C. Presley, PVT Domingo Rodriguez Jr., CPL Ronald R. Ryan, CPL James H. Smith Jr., PFC James O. Taylor, LCPL Louis G. Taylor, LCPL Robert L. Vickers, PFC Stephen A. West, PFC David R. Wienckoski, LCPL Hollis Williams Jr., and PFC Thomas H. Williams / Remains of the other personnel on board could not be positively identified, therefore they were returned to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery for group interment on 23 November 1968 / The names include PFC Herbert R. Aldridge, PFC David G. Anderson, SSGT William F. Anselmo, PFC Charles G. Boyer, CPL Joseph P. Brignac, PFC Donald R. Bumstead, PFC George L. Elliott III, PFC Michael D. Gray, PFC James A. Grzegorek, PFC Blucher R. Hall, PFC Paul E. Hicks, PFC Howard E. Hollar, LCPL Andrew Jackson, CPL Larry S. Kennedy, LCPL Thomas MacMillan, PFC Joseph A. Marturano, LCPL Winford McCosar, PFC Dennis M. Mead, PFC James E. Miles, PFC Roger C. Minch, PFC James E. Moore, PFC Thomas J. Moss Jr., PFC Richard J. O'Hare, CPL Vic M. Pizarro, SSGT Noel L. Rios, CPL Samuel P. Robinson, CPL Michael Sears, LCPL Kenneth A. Stanciu, CPL Stanley G. Strong, PFC Daryl B. Terhune, CPL William L. Terrell, HM3 Louis J. Toner, MSGT Howard B. Waldron, and Robert Ellison, a civilian photographer for Newsweek magazine

## *Base Assignments:*

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more



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than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

## *Miscellaneous:*

James Grzegorek attended St. Casimer Grammer School and graduated from Bishop Ryan High School, Buffalo / Grzegorek was a drum teacher and a member of the Buffalo Bell's Orchestra / James Andrew Grzegorek was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, Missouri

James Andrew Grzegorek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43e, Line 19

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

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 26th Marine Regiment (26th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The 26th Marines were activated in 1944 and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and were activated again on 1 March 1966, and fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War / On 1 March 1966 the 26th Marine Regiment was activated at Camp Pendleton initiating the formation of the 5th Marine Division / The regimental headquarters arrived in South Vietnam on 26 April 1967 / In mid-May 1967, following the conclusion of The Hill Fights, the 26th Marines took over responsibility for the area around Khe Sanh from the 3rd Marines as Operation Crockett / The 26th Marines conducted Operation Ardmore a search and destroy mission in the Khe Sanh area from 17 July-31 October 1967 / At the conclusion of Operation Ardmore the Marines commenced Operation Scotland, the defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base and search and destroy missions against People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration / From 21 January 1968 the 26th Marines were under siege at Khe Sanh until the conclusion of Operation Pegasus on 14 April 1968 and were replaced by the 1st Marines on 15 April 1968 / From 11 to 19 March 1970 the regiment redeployed from South Vietnam and was inactivated / The 26th Marines were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Khe Sanh as were the Seabees that supported them

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

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by



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

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

The Combat 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



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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRZYBOWSKI

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

ERROL B.

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**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:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Errol Brian Grzybowski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Brian Grzybowski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Errol Brian Grzybowski passed away on 6 Nov 2018 at the age of 71 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



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**Name:** **GUCWA**

**JOSEPH J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 139 BUSH STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**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:**

Private First-Class Joseph John Gucwa honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Joseph Gucwa was deployed to Vietnam 8 February 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Joseph Gucwa was Killed In Action on 19 July 1968 as a result of enemy rocket fire hitting his truck in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune is a 246-square-mile United States military



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training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

## *Miscellaneous:*

Joseph Gucwa was a 1967 graduate of Riverside High School / Gucwa enlisted in the Marine Corps on 30 August 1967 / Joseph John Gucwa was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Joseph John Gucwa is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 51w, Line 11

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

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Đông Hà, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Huế, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / They returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971



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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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GUERRA, SR.**

**VICTOR J.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-9

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

BATTALION LANDING TEAM, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH MARINES, 24TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT

**Medals / Citations:**

NAVY CROSS

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

RVN GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL W/PALM

PURPLE HEART (3)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 SERVICE STARS

MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL W/2 STARS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON W/1 STAR

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Major Victor J. Guerra, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / MSGT Victor Guerra served for a total of 44+ years, including 37 years active duty / Sgt. Major Guerra, Sr. was engaged in several combat operations in Vietnam, and in 1983 was part of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon with Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Victor Guerra, Sr. was Honorably Discharged and retired from the US Marine Corps on 1 May 1994 / Victor J. Guerra, Sr. passed away on 23 October 2018

1st Battalion, 8th Marines (1/8) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina / The battalion consists of approximately 1000 Marines and sailors and is nicknamed "The Beirut Battalion" / The battalion falls under the command of the 6th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / The unit's history dates back to World War II where it fought in numerous campaigns in the Pacific including Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa / During the Cold War, it was part of Operation Blue Bat in Lebanon in 1958, the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965, and the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing in Lebanon where 241 Marines, sailors and soldiers lost



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their lives / In 1991, it took part in operations during the Gulf War / Since 2001, 1/8 has fought the Global War on Terrorism by serving numerous tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

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

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

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

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

The Navy Achievement Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement or meritorious service of military personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / The Navy Achievement Medal (NAM), is the United States Navy version of the Achievement Medal / The U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal" / On August 19, 1994, to recognize those of the United States Marine Corps who had received the Navy Achievement Medal, the name of the decoration was officially changed to the "Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal" / The award is still often referred to in shorthand speech as the "Navy Achievement Medal" or "NAM" for short

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



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served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GULLEKSON**

**ROBERT R.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE (SEABEES)

**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:**

Robert R. Gullekson honorably served in the United States Navy Seabees and served 3 tours of service in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert R. Gullekson worked at Buffalo Forge prior to joining the Navy / Upon his Honorable Discharge, Gullekson returned to work at Buffalo Forge, retiring in 2010 after 46 years of employment / Gullekson was past Commander of the Harry-Crosby VFW Post #2472 in Kenmore, NY / Robert R. Gullekson passed away on 25 February 2022

The Naval Construction Force, better known as the Seabees, was born 5 March 1942 / To meet the Navy's need for construction of advanced bases in combat zones in World War II, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, requested specific authority to activate, organize, and man Navy construction units / The first Seabee units were authorized on 5 January 1942, and official authorization of the Seabee name and insignia occurred on 5 March 1942 / Since then, Seabees have been the Navy's construction force, building bases and airfields, conducting underwater construction, and building roads, bridges, and other support facilities

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



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GULLO**

**ANTHONY T.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Anthony Thomas "Tony" Gullo honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Anthony Thomas "Tony" Gullo passed away on 16 September 2025 at the age of 84 years old

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GUTEKUNST**

**LERROY J.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURY

**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:**

LeRoy J. "Goodie" Gutekunst honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

LeRoy Gutekunst worked at Bethlehem Steel in the mailroom, on the pneumatic tube mail system / After being laid off, Gutekunst made a living as a talented Woodworker / v passed away on 19 June 2025 at the age of 88 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GUTILLO**  
**DALE**

**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:**

Dale Gutillo honorably served in the United States Military / Dale Gutillo was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GUTOWSKI**  
**MATTHEW**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Matthew Gutowski honorably served in the United States Army / Matthew Gutowski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GUZDA, JR.**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

18TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 197TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD US ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Michael Guzda, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Michael Guzda was assigned to an Artillery Regiment during his 12 month deployment to Vietnam

Michael Guzda received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 21 June 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Guzda, Jr. passed away on 14 June 2018

The 197th Infantry Brigade ("Sledgehammer") is an active Infantry brigade of the United States Army / The brigade was active as an Organized Reserve unit from 1921–1942, in the Regular Army from 1962–1991, and as a TRADOC training unit from 2007–2013 / The 18th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army first formed in 1916 / The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

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



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

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

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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