



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LABBY**

RICHARD B.

Hometown: HAMBURG

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:

Richard Bernard Labby honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, Richard Labby went to work at the Ford Stamping Plant until his retirement / Richard Bernard Labby passed away on 26 October 2024 after a brief battle with a brain tumor at the age of 79 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAFFERTY

JAMES P.

Hometown: DERBY

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

James P. Lafferty honorably served in the United States Navy / James Lafferty was assigned as a Gunner's Mate-Guns (GMG) and had 3 years of foreign and sea service, including duty in the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam from 1968-1969

James Lafferty was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 9 April 1971

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James P. Lafferty passed away on 26 August 2021

A US Navy Gunner's Mate is a sailor who specializes in the operation, maintenance, and repair of different types of firearms on board ships / They are responsible for the operation and maintenance of guided missile launching systems, gun mounts, and other ordnance equipment, as well as small arms and magazines / The primary responsibility of a Gunners Mate is to maintain various types of large-caliber weapons systems on naval ships such as cannons, machine guns or torpedoes / Besides maintaining these weapon systems they are also responsible for storing and issuing ammunition as required / A gunnery mate may also be assigned with the task of operating any type or caliber gun on-board / During training sessions or live operations they could work with deck crews to coordinate firing solutions while keeping track targets using radar equipment installed below decks

USS Newport News (CA-148) was the third and last ship of the Des Moines-class of heavy cruisers / She was the



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

first fully air-conditioned surface ship and the last all-gun heavy cruiser in the United States Navy / The Newport News was commissioned on 29 January 1949 and was deployed to the Mediterranean from 1950 to 1961 for duty with the Sixth Fleet / Operations from 1963 through 1967 consisted primarily of NATO exercises in the North Atlantic, gunnery and amphibious exercises off the Eastern seaboard and Caribbean, and midshipman cruises / On 5 September 1967, the Newport News departed for a six-month deployment to Southeast Asia / Arriving in Da Nang, South Vietnam, she fired her eight-inch guns for the first time against shore targets in North Vietnam as part of Operation Sea Dragon / Newport News spent 50 days patrolling the coast of North Vietnam as part of Operation Sea Dragon – the Navy's effort to destroy waterborne logistics craft, military supply routes and installations in North Vietnam / During this period, the ship conducted 156 strikes with 325 North Vietnamese coastal defense sites taken under fire / According to spotters, Newport News sank 17 waterborne logistics craft, damaged another 14 and destroyed several enemy bunkers and radar sites, bridges, barges, trucks and roads / The ship was subjected to return fire on several occasions, but each time countered enemy batteries / On 19 December 1967, Newport News exchanged fire with 20–28 separate shore batteries, simultaneously, off the coast of North Vietnam / During this engagement, over 300 enemy rounds bracketed the cruiser's position, but she suffered no direct hits / This encounter led to forward observers to nickname Newport News "The Gray Ghost from the East Coast," a moniker she retained throughout her three Vietnam deployments / Newport News was decommissioned on 27 June 1975 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 31 July 1978 / She spent her later years as a member of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard's Mothball Fleet and was sold for scrap in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 25 February 1993

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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: **LAGODZINSKI**

ROGER T.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address: 100 CLAUDE DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 557TH INFANTRY PLATOON COMBAT TRACKER

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

AIR MEDAL (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Roger Thomas Lagodzinski honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Roger Lagodzinski was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Roger Lagodzinski was Killed In Action on 19 May 1970 when an enemy booby trap exploded in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

SSG Roger Lagodzinski was on a Mission with an L Co. Ranger Team on 19 May 1970 / SSGT Lagodzinski stepped on a booby trap and was medevacked out / In the Phu Bai Evac, the doctors thought that they had stabilized him but did not realize that an artery was bleeding internally and SSG Roger Lagodzinski subsequently died

SSG Roger Lagodzinski was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on the battlefield

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Roger Lagodzinski attended John F. Kennedy High School in Sloan before joining the U.S. Army during his Senior year / Roger Thomas Lagodzinski was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Roger Thomas Lagodzinski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10w, Line 65

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

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

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

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

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

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

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 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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Staff Sergeant Roger Thomas Lagodzinski was also awarded the following Military Honors:

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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: LAIBLE

MICHAEL G.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Michael G. Laible honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael G. Laible passed away on 20 August 2025 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: LAMBY

CHARLES M.

Hometown: DERBY

Address: 6697 DARBY ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Charles Michael Lamby honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Charles Lamby was deployed to Vietnam on 9 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Charles Lamby was Killed In Action on 30 March 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in combat action in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

On 30 March 1969, "A" Company encountered and engaged a hostile enemy force in Kon Tum Province / During the battle, sixteen men were killed and many more were wounded / SGT Charles Lamby was one of the casualties, killed by shrapnel wounds from a hostile explosive device

Sergeant Charles Lamby attended the Non-Commissioned Officers 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Jackson , South Carolina - Fort Jackson is a United States Army installation, which the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) operates for Basic Combat Training (BCT), and is located within the city of Columbia, South Carolina / Fort Jackson was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army general and the seventh president of the United States (1829–1837) who was born in the border region of North and South Carolina / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

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:

Charles Lamby was a graduate of Lake Shore Central School / Lamby was a graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College and attended the University of Buffalo before entering the U.S. Army in 1967 / Charles Michael Lamby was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans, New York

Charles Michael Lamby is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 28w, Line 92

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 4th Infantry Division is a division of the United States Army based at Fort Carson, Colorado / The division was first activated in 1917 and has served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom1 / The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry is a battalion of the United States Army and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado

The 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / Three 12th Infantry battalions deployed to South Vietnam with the 4th Division from August through October 1966 / The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was assigned, set up base camp at Dau Tieng in III Corps while the rest of the 4th Division was assigned to the Central Highlands in II Corps alongside the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division which had arrived in December 1965 / The 1st and 3rd Battalions returned in December 1970 with the 4th Division to



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Carson, Colorado / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism

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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: **LAMONTE**
FRANCIS P.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: FN

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

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:

Fireman (FN) Francis P. LaMonte honorably served in both the United States Navy / FN Francis LaMonte was deployed for a full 12-month tour in South Vietnam / FN LaMonte was assigned to Naval Support Activity (NSA) in Saigon, An Thoi Detachment

Later, Francis LaMonte was assigned to a Marine Corps unit due to his capabilities as a mechanic and engineer

Fireman Francis LaMonte was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on 26 July 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis LaMonte retired as an Occupational Therapist at the Buffalo VA Hospital / Francis P. LaMonte passed away on 29 April 2023 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

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



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: LAMPRECHT
PAUL

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:

Paul Lamprecht honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Lamprecht was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Lancaster / Lamprecht was a member of the Pine Hill Drum Corps / Paul Lamprecht passed away peacefully at the NYS Veterans Home at Batavia on 10 October 2025 at the age of 81 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: **LANE**

GARY

S.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Gary S. Lane honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Lane was a retired Director of Youth, Parks & Recreation at the Town of Tonawanda / Gary S. Lane passed away on 13 September 2024 at the age of 82 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LANG

THOMAS

M.

Hometown: SLOAN

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:

Thomas M. Lang honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas M. Lang passed away on 13 November 2024 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: **LANGE**

BRIAN E.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address: BURMON DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: COAST GUARD

Rank:

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Brian E. Lange honorably served in the United States Coast Guard

The brothers of Brian Lange, William E. Lange and Michael E. Lange, both served in the United States Marine Corps and were stationed in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After graduating from high school, Brian Lange attended college before entering the military / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Coast Guard, Brian Lange drove a bus for Head Start in Olean, New York and was a house painter / Lange was a member of the Buffalo American Legion / Brian E. Lange passed away on 16 May 2025 at the age of 72 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LANGE**

MICHAEL E.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address: BURMON DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1975

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael E. Lange honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Michael Lange was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of Michael Lange, William E. Lange, also served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Vietnam / Another brother, Brian E. Lange, served in the United States Coast Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Lange retired from the U.S. Postal Service, Buffalo branch, after 30 years as a Mail Clerk / Lange moved to St. Petersburg, Florida after his retirement / Michael Lange was a life member of the Vietnam Vets Motor Cycle Club, St. Petersburg / Michael E. "Grog" Lange passed away on 20 September 2025 at the age of 54 years old and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans, 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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LANGE

WILLIAM E

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address: BURMON DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal William E. Lange honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL William Lange was deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the flight line refueling Marine Corps aircraft

The brother of William Lange, Michael E. Lange, also served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Vietnam / Another brother, Brian E. Lange, served in the United States Coast Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Lange retired from the General Motors Plant on River Road in Tonawanda / Lange moved to Port Richey, Florida after his retirement / William E. Lange passed away on 8 October 2024 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, 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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LARUSCH**

THOMAS W.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Thomas W. LaRusch honorably served in the United States Army / SGT LaRusch was assigned to the Light Weapons Infantry / Deployed to Vietnam in 1970, Sgt LaRusch served in-country for 11 months operating the TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) Anti-Tank Missile

Thomas LaRusch was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 22 July 1971

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas W. LaRusch passed away on 30 May 2021

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 BGM-71 TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) is a heavy anti-tank missile / It was developed by Hughes Aircraft Company during the mid and late 1960s / It was designed for both ground and



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

heliborne applications / Production contract was awarded in 1968 and first fielded in the 1970's

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

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

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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: **LARUSSO**
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 LaRusso honorably served in the United States Military / Anthony LaRusso 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: LASSEN

DAVID H.

Hometown: CLARENCE

Address: 24 ST. JOAN LANE

- Vietnam Era
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

23RD ARTILLERY GROUP, 2ND BATTALION, 32ND ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David Henry Lassen honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Lassen was deployed to Vietnam 10 June 1969 as a Field Wireman / SP4 David Lassen was Killed In Action on 1 April 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds he sustained by hostile mortar or rocket fire at Firebase (Fsb) Illingsworth, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Fire Support Base Illingsworth was a U.S. Army firebase located twenty-one miles northwest of Tay Ninh, approximately three miles from the Cambodian border / On 1 April 1970, the base was occupied by Companies "C" and "E", 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry; "B" Battery, 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery; "A" Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery; "A" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery; and "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, comprising roughly 220 men / Ground surveillance radar detected strong movement outside the perimeter right before midnight, and at approximately 2:17 AM the North Vietnamese Army began pounding the base with over 300 rounds of mixed 122mm and 107mm rockets, 120mm, 82mm, and 60mm mortars, and 75mm recoilless rifle and B-40 rocket-propelled grenade rounds / Firebase Illingsworth was then assaulted by a force of over 400 troops from the southwest / The enemy was engaged with unit weapons, artillery, aerial rocket artillery, night-illuminated "Nighthawk" attack helicopter sorties, and other air support / Fighting was fierce, particularly on the southwest portion of the firebase where friendly forces engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat in order to repel the assault / During the attack, an ammunition dump containing over 190 rounds of 8" ammunition exploded in a tremendous blast, destroying an 8" artillery gun and damaging radio antennas, rendering a temporary loss of communication / At 3:30 AM, the base was still receiving mortar and rocket fire although the



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

ground attack had been broken / All incoming fire ceased at 4:30 AM, and search operations began / The attack resulted in twenty-five American soldiers killed and fifty-eight wounded, including Specialist Fourth-Class David Lassen / Sixty-five NVA were killed and numerous weapons and equipment were captured

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Lassen was a graduate of Clarence Central High School and the State University College at Farmingdale / Lassen entered the U.S. Army on 8 January 1969 / David Henry Lassen was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, New York

David Henry Lassen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12w, Line 70

The role of a Field Wireman in the Army is to supervise all phases of wire and cable communication system construction, installation, operation, and maintenance performed by subordinate personnel; Plan and conduct training for wire and cable-related communication; Provide liaison between staff elements, operations, and maintenance personnel; Determine requirements, assign duties, and coordinate activities of subordinate operations and maintenance personnel concerning communications-electronics and related equipment facilities and physical plants / Plan, supervise, and direct the installation, operation, and management of area or strategic communications systems and networks at all levels; monitor and report on communication system operation / Interpret and advise subordinates in complex communications equipment, circuit, or system situations

The 32nd Field Artillery Regiment is a distinguished and highly decorated field artillery regiment of the United States Army, first Constituted in 1918 / The 2nd Battery, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, the "Proud Americans", has existed, off and on, since 1918 / It has participated in World War II, Vietnam, and the current War on Terrorism

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LATTANZIO

FRANK A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

2ND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

AIRCREW BADGE

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Frank Anthony Lattanzio honorably served in the United States Army as an Aircraft Mechanic and Repairman

Base Assignments:

Fort Eustis, Virginia - Fort Eustis is a United States Army installation in Newport News, Virginia / Camp Abraham Eustis was established in 1918 as a coast artillery replacement center and is named for Brevet Brigadier General Abraham Eustis, a 19th-century U.S. military leader who had been the first commanding officer of Fort Monroe, a defensive fortification at the mouth of Hampton Roads / The post is the home to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, the 7th Transportation Brigade, and Joint Task Force - Civil Support / In 2010, Fort Eustis was merged with nearby Langley Air Force Base as Joint Base Langley-Eustis

Miscellaneous:

Frank A. Lattanzio was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

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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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The Aircrew Badge, commonly known as Wings, is a qualification badge of the United States military that is awarded by all five branches of armed services to personnel who serve as aircrew members on board military aircraft / The badge is intended to recognize the training and qualifications required by aircrew of military aircraft / In order to qualify as an aircrew member and receive the Aircrew Badge, such personnel typically undergo advanced training in aircraft in-flight support roles / The badge was issued in three degrees: Basic, Senior, and Master / The level of seniority depended on the number of flight hours obtained and years of service in the United States Army

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAUDISIO, SR.

ROBERT F.

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:

Robert F. Laudisio, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert F. Laudisio, Sr. passed away on 30 December 2023 at the age of 85 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAUFER

BERTHOLD J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PO2

Year Entered: 1958

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

USS HARTLEY (DE-1029)

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Berthold J. "Bud" Laufer honorably served in the United States navy / PO2 Berthold Laufer was assigned to the USS Harley as a Boiler Technician (BT)

PO2 Berthold Laufer was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 6 August 1962

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Berthold J. "Bud" Laufer passed away on 22 September 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 / 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 Hartley (DE-1029) was a Dealey-class destroyer escort in the United States Navy / DE-1029 was the second ship to bear the name Hartley; she was named for Admiral Henry Hartley and was commissioned on 6 June 1957 / During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Hartley participated in antisubmarine exercises out of Newport, Rhode



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Island / In 1962 on, the Hartley continued operating in the Atlantic and the Caribbean and in March 1963, she conducted surveillance patrols off Cuba / The Harley was decommissioned on 8 July 1972 and sold to the Columbia Navy and renamed the Boyaca / She was stricken from the Colombian record in 1992 and her final fate is unknown

Name: LAUFER
GORDON

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gordon Laufer honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gordon Laufer attended Kenmore East Senior High School before enlisting in the US Navy / Laufer was a member of the American Legion / Gordon Laufer passed away on 16 May 2024 at the age of 74 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LAUN**

JAMES

A.

Hometown: **BOSTON**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

James A. Laun honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Laun was a Pastor for over 55 years in the Western New York Community / Reverend James A. Laun passed away on 18 January 2024



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAURICELLA
SALVATORE P.

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:

Salvatore P. "Sam" Lauricella honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Salvatore P. "Sam" Lauricella passed away on 17 February 2026 at the age of 88 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAWICKI

JAMES

L.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

James L. Lawicki honorably served in the United States Navy / James Lawicki participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis

James Lawicki also served in the United States Coast Guard Reserve

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Lawicki served with the Erie County Sheriff's Department for over 27 years / James L. Lawicki passed away on 13 January 2025 at the age of 82 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAY

CRAIG T.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1975

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Craig Thomas Lay honorably served in the United States Navy / Craig Lay was stationed in the Mediterranean

After serving four years active duty, Craig Lay joined the Navy Reserves, serving 20 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Craig Lay received his Associate's Degree from Bryant Straton College and his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Buffalo / Lay worked as an Electrician and retired from General Motors / Craig Thomas Lay passed away on 9 August 2025 at the age of 72 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAZARZ

DENNIS R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE (H&S) COMPANY, H&S BATTALION, TBS, MOVEMENT CONTROL BATTALION (MCB)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/(1960-)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Dennis Raymond Lazarz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Dennis Lazara was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia - Commonly abbreviated MCB Quantico, Marine Corps Base Quantico is a United States Marine Corps installation located near Triangle, Virginia, covering nearly 86.169 square miles) of southern Prince William County, Virginia, northern Stafford County, and southeastern Fauquier County / Used primarily for training purposes, MCB Quantico is known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps" / In 1917, Marine Barracks, Quantico was established and thousands of Marines were trained at Quantico during World War I / In 1934, Amphibious Warfare Doctrine, along with special amphibious landing crafts for World War II were developed at Quantico / These Amphibious Warfare techniques, developed in the years before World War II, made victory possible in the Pacific theater / Quantico trained over 15,000 USMC and other service officers in Amphibious Warfare techniques / The first Marine Aircraft Wing was developed at Quantico, as well as the Corps' first helicopter squadron, Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), the first helicopter squadron to provide rapid transportation for Presidents of the United States ("Marine One")

Miscellaneous:

Dennis R. Lazarz was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, 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 Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company includes all command, administration, intelligence, operations, logistics, and communication Marines and equipment, as well as the battalion's Scout Sniper platoon and Battalion Aid Station (BAS) staffed by U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAZARZ

PATRICK J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: GMG3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gunner's Mate (Guns) Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick J. Lazarz honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

A US Navy Gunner's Mate is a sailor who specializes in the operation, maintenance, and repair of different types of firearms on board ships / They are responsible for the operation and maintenance of guided missile launching systems, gun mounts, and other ordnance equipment, as well as small arms and magazines / The primary responsibility of a Gunners Mate is to maintain various types of large-caliber weapons systems on naval ships such as cannons, machine guns or torpedoes / Besides maintaining these weapon systems they are also responsible for storing and issuing ammunition as required / A gunnery mate may also be assigned with the task of operating any type or caliber gun on-board / During training sessions or live operations they could work with deck crews to coordinate firing solutions while keeping track targets using radar equipment installed below decks



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LECASTRE**

KENNETH J.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **31 BREMEN STREET**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: **MARINE CORPS**

Rank: **CPL**

Year Entered: **1965**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, F COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Kenneth John LeCaste honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Kenneth LeCaste was deployed to Vietnam as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / CPL Kenneth LeCaste was Killed In Action on 9 May 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations around Hill 778 Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 9 May 1967, Company "F" engaged a large enemy force in the mountainous area west of Hill 778 near Lang Xoa 11 kilometers west of the Khe Sanh Combat Base / The Marine walked into a NVA base camp that was taking heavy fire / Company "E" was on Hill 803 overlooking the battle and began to provide 81mm mortar support, however the effect was minimal because of the heavy tree cover / Helicopter gunships and fixed wing aircraft arrived in support / The engagement lasted throughout the day with twenty men from Company "F" being killed in the action and more being wounded / One of the casualties was Cpl Kenneth LeCaste, who was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

The Battle of Khe Sanh was conducted in northwestern Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam with roots in 1967, and extending viciously throughout 1968 / It was the longest, deadliest and most controversial battle of the Vietnam War / During the battle, a massive aerial bombardment campaign (Operation Niagara) was launched by the United States with over 100,000 tons of bombs / Five tons of bombs for every one of the 20,000 NVA soldiers in the fight / President Johnson was determined to hold Khe Sanh at all costs / The jungles surrounding



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Khe Sanh were burned and bombed barren and Khe Sanh became the major news headline coming out of Vietnam in late March 1968 / The cost on American lives lost has been estimated to be around 1000, with NVA loses ten times that number

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth LeCaste attended Grover Cleveland High School before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, at the age of 17 years old, on 9 July 1965 / Kenneth John LeCaste was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Kenneth John LeCaste is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 73

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

9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) was a United States Marine Corps unit / Following the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in August 1964, the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was activated / It consisted of 9th Marine Regiment regimental headquarters and three battalion landing teams (BLT) / Almost 6,000 men were transformed into an effective force in readiness / The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was deactivated on 6 May 1965 and reactivated on 1 March 1966 as 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) on Okinawa, Japan and landed in Vietnam on 8 March 1965 / the 9th MAB participated in Operation Osage in South Vietnam between 27 April and 3 May 1966 / The 9th MAB was assigned to the mission of destroying a VC battalion and elements of a People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) regiment reported to be operating in Thừa Thiên-Huế Province / The 9th MAB provided Battalion Landing Team (BLT) of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines for Operation Deckhouse IV from 15–18 September 1966 / The 9th MAB's Marines killed over 200 PAVN soldiers from 90th Regiment with the loss of 36 Marines / During the rest of the year, the 9th MAB and its units were stationed off the northern coast of South Vietnam in order to provide force for the defense of Vietnam Demilitarized Zone in case of emergency / The 9th MAB launched the Operation Deckhouse VI on 16 February 1967 in order to disrupt enemy movement in the vicinity of Sa Huynh salt flats, search northward in the Nui Dat area, and, finally, link up with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, then operating around Nui Dat in Operation Desoto / The 9th MAB took part in the Operation Beaver Cage between 28 April and 13 May 1967 and Operation Dewey Canyon / In 1969, it was announced that the regiment would be part of the 25,000 man withdrawal from Vietnam, ending more than four years of combat actions in Vietnam for the 9th Marines

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines (2/3) was an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors / The battalion fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment and the 3rd Marine Division / In January 1961, 2/3 was redeployed to Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and reassigned to 3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force / From there the unit deployed at various times between 1961 and 1967 as the Battalion Landing Team of the Seventh Fleet / In April



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

1965, 2/3 deployed to Da Nang in the Republic of Vietnam / They fought in Vietnam from April 1965 until October 1969 when 2/3 left South Vietnam and relocated to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and was reassigned to 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force / The battalion was deactivated in January 2022 as part of the Marine Corps' ongoing Force Design efforts

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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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: LEE, JR.

JAMES

F.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PO3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS PORTLAND (LSD-37)

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Third-Class James F. Lee, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 James F. Lee, Jr. served aboard the USS Portland for twelve months as an Electrical, Mechanical Repairman

Petty Officer 3rd Class James F. Lee, Jr. was Honorably Discharged at Navy Supply Corp, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 9 December 1975

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James F. Lee, Jr. passed away on 23 December 2024 at the age of 68 years old

The second USS Portland (LSD-37) was a US Navy Anchorage class dock landing ship built at General Dynamics Quincy Shipbuilding Division at Quincy, Massachusetts, and commissioned in 1970 / The Portland served in the Atlantic fleet, deploying to various regions including the Caribbean, North and South Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean / The USS Portland was decommissioned in 2003 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in 2004 / It was sunk as a target during an exercise off the Virginia coast later that year



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LEGIERSKI**

MICHAEL W.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

591ST MEDICAL COMPANY, FGGM (FORT GEORGE G MEADE) MD FIRST USA

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIRCRAFT CREWMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

2 OVERSEAS (O/S) BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class (PFC) Michael William Legierski honorably served in the United States Army as a Personnel Clerk

Base Assignments:

Ft. Rucker, Alabama - Fort Rucker (Formerly Camp Rucker) is a U.S. Army post located primarily in Dale County, Alabama, United States / Opened on 1 May 1942, it was named for a Civil War officer, Confederate General Edmund Rucker / The post is the primary flight training installation for U.S. Army Aviators and is home to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) and the United States Army Aviation Museum / Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of units of less than division size; these included tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units / During the latter part of the Second World War, several hundred German and a few Italian prisoners-of-war were housed in stockades near the railroad east of the warehouse area, on the southern edge of the post / The 91st Infantry Division was sent to Camp Rucker at the end of the war, being deactivated in December 1945 / Camp Rucker was inactive from March 1946 until August 1950 / It was reopened during the Korean War / The name was changed to "Fort Rucker" in October 1955 / The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls for the establishment of an eight-person committee to develop a plan to remove all names, symbols, displays, and monuments that honor or commemorate the Confederacy from all Department of Defense assets, including Fort Rucker / In 2021, the Moore family started a petition to rename the fort in honor of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black brigadier general in the USAF



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Michael W. Legierski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The 591st Medical Company was constituted 9 February 1943 in the Army of the United States as Company B, 429th Medical Ambulance Battalion and activated 4 March 1943 at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi / Redesignated 20 April 1953 as the 591st Medical Company

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

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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

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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: **LEHNING**
ROBERT

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:

Robert Lehning honorably served in the United States Military / Robert Lehning 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: LEIBELSHON

DAVID M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

David Martin Leibelshon honorably served in the United States Marine Corps as a Symbolic Programmer during his tour of duty with the Marines

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Leibelshon graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1965 and attended college at the University of Buffalo / Leibelshon taught in the Buffalo Public School System, retiring and moving to Vista, California / David Martin David Leibelshon passed away on 18 November 2022 at the age of 75 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEITNER

MARK

J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Mark James Leitner honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Mark Leitner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Canisius College and MA in Education from D'Youville University / In 1975, Mark Leitner went to work as a broadcaster for WIZR in Johnstown, New York, and WENT in Gloversville, New York / Leitner later went to WBEN radio as a broadcaster for 23 years / In 2003, Mark Leitner continued with his broadcasting career. going WNED and WBFO radio / Mark James Leitner passed away on 1 December 2025 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: **LEMPGES III**

THEODORE J.

Hometown: BOSTON

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Theodore J. Lempges, III honorably served in the United States Navy / Lempges was assigned to the Navy Seabees and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Theodore J. Lempges, III passed away on 21 November 2024 at the age of 77 years old

United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the U.S. Naval Construction Force (NCF) / Naval Construction Battalions were conceived of as replacements for civilian construction companies in combat zones after the attack on Pearl Harbor / At the time civilian contractors had roughly 70,000 men working U.S. Navy contracts overseas / International law made it illegal for civilian workers to resist an attack and by doing so would classify them as guerrillas and could lead to summary execution / With roots dating back to World War II, the Seabees were formally established on 5 March 1942, to meet the Navy's growing need to construct bases, build airfields, conduct underwater construction and build roads, bridges and other support facilities while providing protection for themselves and those around them as part of the war effort / The Seabees were deployed to Vietnam twice in the 1950s to survey and map the roads / Seabee teams (501 and 502) arrived in January 1963 as the first Seabees of the Vietnam War / The last battalion withdrew late 1971 with the last Seabee teams out a year later / When it was over, 137 Seabee teams were sent to Vietnam and had built 15 CB camps and deployed 22 battalions / In the over seven decades since its founding, Seabees have gone on to serve in most major U.S. conflicts



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LENARTOWICZ**

ALFRED J.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-6

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer First-Class Alfred J. Lenartowicz honorably served in the United States Navy / PO1 Alfred Lenartowicz enlisted in the Navy at 18 years old and assigned the classification as an Electrical Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alfred J. Lenartowicz passed away on 6 May 2015 at the age of 72 years old and interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

Electrician's Mates are responsible for the operation and repair of a ship's or station's electrical power plant and electrical equipment / They also maintain and repair power and lighting circuits, distribution switchboards, generators, motors and other electrical equipment / Specially qualified electrician's mates are employed onboard nuclear-powered ships to maintain the control subsystems in nuclear reactors

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LENDA

DENNIS M.

Hometown: SLOAN

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

52ND SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Dennis M. Lenda honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Dennis Lenda was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months with the Army Corps of Engineers as an Engineer Equipment Repairman

Dennis Lenda received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 11 May 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis M. Lenda passed away on 28 February 2018

An Engineer Equipment Repairman supervises personnel in maintenance of engineer and ground support equipment / Analyzes malfunctions and supervises field level repair and adjustment of engineer equipment which includes power generation, earthmoving, shaping and compacting, lifting and loading, quarrying and rock crushing, asphalt concrete mixing and surfacing, water purification, refrigeration and air conditioning, water gap crossing, POL transfer and engineer electronic application / Supervises maintenance of non-engineer equipment assigned by equipment authorization documents / Inspects incoming equipment to determine repair requirements, assigns work to subordinates, and ensures quality of work performed by inspection of outgoing equipment / Establishes maintenance and repair schedules based on equipment schedules and availability of parts, tools, personnel, and unit mission / Establishes internal administrative procedures to procure, store, and issue publications, tools, parts, and POL / Manages maintenance float items to replace equipment not repairable



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

within prescribed time limits

The mission of the 52nd Signal Battalion is to engineer, install, operate and maintain forward based information systems, services and network operations that enable Joint, Interagency, Multinational, Army and Special Operations Forces / Specific tasks include: Providing command and control services; installing, operating, and maintaining C4 systems in the Battalion's area of responsibility; protecting the force; and providing sustainment /

Previously, the 52nd Signal Battalion had provided strategic and tactical command, control and computer support for Headquarters, US European Command (USEUCOM) and other Defense Department (DoD) activities / It also provided sustaining-base Information Mission Area (IMA) support, including automation, telecommunication, printing and publication and records management for Headquarters, 6th Area Support Group and all tenant units within the 6th Area Support Group's area of responsibility / The 52nd Signal Battalion was first constituted on 18 October 1927 in the Regular Army as the 52nd Signal Battalion / It was activated on 10 February 1941 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas / On 2 February 1942, the Battalion arrived in Australia, and subsequently worked its way through Dutch New Guinea, and eventually the Philippines before the end of the Second World War / The Battalion participated in a total of 4 campaigns during the war to include: Dutch New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, and Southern Philippines / It was during these campaigns that the Battalion received the honor of being known as "MacArthur's Own" / The Battalion completed its service in the South Pacific and was inactivated in Korea on 25 January 1949 / On 1 August 1966, the Battalion was reactivated in Can Tho, Republic of Vietnam and assumed operational control of all area communications facilities in support of IV Corps and US Military Assistance Command - Vietnam Advisory Teams / Over the next 4 years, the 52nd Signal Battalion would participate in 12 separate campaigns throughout the Republic of Vietnam / In the fall of 1971, the Battalion began to stand down and was subsequently inactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington on 13 October 1971 / The unit was reactivated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 52nd Signal Battalion on 1 July 1974 in Germany and assigned to 2nd Signal Group (subsequently redesignated 2nd Signal Brigade), 5th Signal Command

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LENZ**

ROBERT W.

Hometown: CLARENCE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Robert Wilkie Lenz honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Lenz worked for over a decade in the family-owned restaurant, Old Red Mill Inn in Clarence / Wilkie established the Asa Ransom House in 1975 and was owned and operated by the Lenz family until 2021 / Lenz was a distinguished entrepreneur and community advocate for the Town of Clarence / Robert Lenz was a member of the Clarence Hollow Association, the JC's, Clarence Historical Society, NARP, Empire State Passenger Association and the Clarence Farmers Market / Robert Wilkie Lenz passed away on 31 December 2024 at the age of 85 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEO, JR.

NICHOLAS J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTERS (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Nicholas J. Leo, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Nicholas Leo was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic

Nicholas Leo was honorably discharged from the U.S Army on 13 December 1968 at HHC 47th Infantry Division, Fort Meade Maryland, with reserve obligation ending 14 December 1972

Base Assignments:

Fort George Meade, Maryland - Fort Meade became an active Army installation in 1917 and was named in honor of Major Gen. George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg proved a major factor in turning the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North / Fort Meade was used as a World War II recruit training post / In September 1943, the first shipment of 1,632 Italian and 58 German prisoners arrived at Fort Meade / Fort Meade is the Army's second largest installation by population with more than 64,000 employees that represent the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force / Fort Meade's more than 120 partner agencies include the DoD's newest Combatant Command - US Space Force, as well as the National Security Agency, DISA/JFH DODIN Combatant Command - U.S. Space Force, U.S. Cyber Command - the National Security Agency, Defense Information Systems Agency/Joint Forces Headquarters for the Department of Defense Information Network, Defense Media Activity, and several non-DoD agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency and Architect of the Capitol

Miscellaneous:

Nicholas Leo retired to Spring Hill, Florida / Nicholas J. Leo, Jr. passed away on 26 January 2025 at the age of 78



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

yrs 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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LESLIE III**

JAMES

D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/TWO BRONZE STARS

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/ONE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/DEVICE

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

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

Service Notes:

Colonel James D. Leslie III honorably served in the United States Air Force / COL Leslie was deployed to Vietnam for three tours (1966, 1967 and 1968) as a Medic / Colonel Leslie achieved a Masters degree in Executive Healthcare Management and worked as a healthcare administrator/planner in support of each level of the Air Force Command, Joint Staff and National Guard / As Director Joint Medical Mobilization Division, J-4, Joint Staff, Leslie developed the first Integrated CONUS Medical Mobilization Plan that provided total federal medical response to contingencies in support of FEMA and Executive Order

Colonel Leslie also served in Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Shield/Storm

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Leslie was born in Bethlehem, PA, in 1940 and graduated in 1963 from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, James Leslie worked as a consultant with the Veterans Administration and Military Healthcare System / Leslie was life time member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Smith Mountain Lake chapter of Lions Club International (SML Lions Club) / James D. Leslie III passed away on 20 November 2022 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The U.S. Army 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 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 Air Force Commendation Medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on March 28, 1958, for award to members of the armed forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force after March 24, 1958, shall have distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service / The degree of merit must be distinctive, though it need not be unique / Acts of courage which do not involve the voluntary risk of life required for the Airman's Medal may be considered for the Air Force Commendation Medal

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

The Legion of Merit Medal is conferred on officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States and on nationals of other countries who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services since Sept. 8, 1939, the date of the president's proclamation of the state of emergency that led to World War II / The Legion of Merit may be awarded for combat or noncombat services; in the case of American military personnel, if the award is for combat service it is shown by the wearing of a combat V device

The Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) is a military decoration of the United States Department of Defense, which is presented to United States Armed Forces service members who perform superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility / The decoration is most often presented to general and flag officers, followed by a lesser number of Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force colonels and Navy and Coast Guard captains / The medal is presented in the name of the United States Secretary of Defense and was



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

established by President Gerald R. Ford on February 6, 1976, in Executive Order 11904 / It is analogous and senior to the Legion of Merit, albeit awarded for service in a joint duty capacity

The Air Force Achievement Medal (AFAM) is a decoration awarded to Air Force personnel for an outstanding achievement or meritorious service not of the same nature that warrants receiving the Commendation medal / The AFAM is only awarded to junior personnel and is most often awarded to officers with the pay grade of O-4 and below, as well as enlisted personnel below the grade of E-7 / The AFAM can be given in an area of combat but only for non-combat meritorious service and it is considered to be the lower of the U.S. Military's meritorious service medals / The Air Force Achievement medal acknowledges the contributions of the junior officers and enlisted personnel who are not eligible to receive the higher Commendation medal or the Meritorious Service Medal.

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LESTER**

KLINE

R.

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: 1987

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Kline Roy Lester honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Born in North Tonawanda, Kline Lester graduated from Bishop Gibbons High School in 1966 / Lester later moved to East Amherst / / Kline Roy Lester passed away on 30 September 2024 from cancer at the age of 76 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: **LESZCZAK, JR.**
JOHN

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John Leszczak, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Leszczak was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey and moved to Grand Island in 1969 / John Leszczak, Jr. passed away on 21 April 2025 at the age of 87 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: **LEVULIS**

JOHN J.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address: 38 FRONTIER DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

61ST MEDICAL BATTALION, 67TH MED GROUP, 498TH MED CO, AIR AMBULANCE (AA)

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

RVN ARMED FORCES HONOR MEDAL (2D CLASS)

COMBAT MEDIC BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John Joseph Levulis honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Levulis was deployed to Vietnam on 8 March 1970 as a Medical NCO (Combat Medic) / SP4 John Levulis died on 21 February 1971 from injuries sustained in the non-hostile related crash of the helicopter in which he was not a crew member in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam / All crew and passengers suffered mortal injuries, SP4 John Levulis was one of the casualties

At approximately 2150 hours on 20 February 1971, WO1 John V. Rauen (Dustoff 30) and his crew from the 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) were notified of an extended mission in support of armed operations west of Khe Sanh Airfield / At this time WO1 Rauen elected to refuel his aircraft, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 69-15273), and the tower cleared him to reposition from B-Med to POL (refueling station) / The aircraft was flown to POL and refueled without incident / Khe Sanh tower was again contacted, and Dustoff 30 was cleared from POL back to B-Med / Dustoff 30 departed to the north, and after obtaining a height of 60-80 feet, the aircraft was turned to a southwesterly heading / Upon reaching the approach end of Runway 09, the aircraft was seen to enter a fog bank which partially obscured the running lights and rotating beacon / Witnesses stated ground fog had been moving in and out of the area, causing the horizontal visibility to vary from zero-zero to unlimited / Shortly after the aircraft entered the fog, a hard turn left was observed by witnesses standing on the approach end of Runway 09 / Witnesses further stated they saw the aircraft losing altitude during the steep turn / No power loss or malfunction of the engine was noted / As the aircraft neared



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

the ground, the aircraft commander apparently realized what was happening and flared the aircraft in an attempt to decrease his rate of descent / The aircraft impacted the ground (aft left skid), descending at a rate of 650 feet per minute / The aircraft continued forward, flying approximately 45 feet then made ground contact a second time where the right skid made a furrow in the ground / As the right skid collapsed, the main rotor blade made contact with two fifty-five (55) gallon drums / The aircraft continued forward, and a Nomex flight suit sleeve was torn off one of the crew members by a jagged edge from one of the two fifty-five gallon drums / Also, at this point the head separated from the main rotor mast and as the aircraft began to roll, the tailboom separated from the main fuselage / The fuselage rolled another 250 feet leaving puddles of burning JP-4 fuel, and came to rest in the upright position facing north / The tailboom also continued forward coming to rest ninety feet NW of the fuselage / The aircraft commander, WO1 John M. Souther (left seat), was completely engulfed in flames, and therefore was not removed until the fire was at least partially extinguished / The pilot, WO1 Rauen, was extracted from the main fuselage with the use of a front loader / He died 26 February 1971, from 3rd degree burns of the head and shoulders / The crew chief, SP4 Dennis E. Gilliland, was thrown clear of the main fuselage and landed near the tailboom / He died enroute from Khe Sanh to Quang Tri from 3rd degree burns over ninety percent of his body / The medic, SP4 John J. Levulis, was extracted from the right side of the cargo compartment critically burned / Specialist Fourth-Class John Levulis died on 21 February 1971

Specialist Four-Class John Joseph Levulis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement while engaged in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Levulis was a 1967 graduate of Frontier Central High School / Levulis attended Midwestern College in Dennison, Iowa for a year before he was drafted in 1969 / John Joseph Levulis was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

John Joseph Levulis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 128

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 61st Medical Battalion (Area Support) provided Level I and II Combat Health Support and medical evacuation to III Corps units and other units including joint services as required; be prepared to rapidly reinforce/replace standard medical modules to division-level units; augment medical units with field surgical support; and provide combat stress control, preventive medicine, optometry and dental services to III Corps personnel / The 61st Medical Battalion was first constituted on 7 August 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 61st Medical Battalion, Motorized and activated on 25 September 1942 at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky / The Battalion was broken up 9 May 1944 and its elements reorganized and redesignated / Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment was reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 61st Medical Battalion / Companies A, B, and C, and the Clearing Company were reorganized and redesignated as the 391st, 392nd, and 393rd Medical Collecting Companies, and the 643rd Clearing Company, respectively,



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

each thereafter having separate lineages / The unit participated in the Normandy landings, receiving participation credit for the campaign, including a streamer with arrowhead, indicating participation in the initial assault / The Battalion also participated in the Northern France campaign / It was inactivated on 12 November 1945 in France after the end of the Second World War / The Battalion was allotted on 1 March 1963 to the Regular Army and reactivated on 26 March 1963 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky / The Battalion was later deployed to Vietnam, participating in 14 campaigns of the conflict there: Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase II, Counteroffensive Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase IV, Counteroffensive Phase V, Counteroffensive Phase VI, Tet 69/Counteroffensive, Summer-Fall 1969, Winter-Spring 1970, Sanctuary Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase VII, Consolidation I, and Consolidation II / After returning from Vietnam, the unit was inactivated on 18 February 1972 at Fort Lewis, Washington / After the events of 11 September 2001, the Battalion deployed elements in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq / These elements redeployed back to Fort Hood in August 2004 / In October 2005, the unit cased its colors in preparation for another deployment in support of the Global War on Terror (later termed Overseas Contingency Operations) / In September 2010, the 61st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional) returned from a year-long deployment in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

The 498th Medical Company (AA) was constituted in the Regular Army as Company C, 57th Medical Battalion, on 13 January 1941 and activated on 10 February 1941 at Fort Ord, California / On September 10th 1941, the unit was reorganized and redesignated as the 498th Collecting Company, and after serving in WWII, was inactivated at Camp Shanks, New York on 24 October 1945 / The 498th was redesignated as the 498th Preventive Medicine Company on 11 September 1950 and activated on 2 October of that year at Fort Sam Houston, Texas / The unit was reorganized and rededicated the 498th Medical Company on 19 June 1953 only to be inactivated on 24 September 1956 at Fort Meade, Maryland / On 23 September 1964, the unit was activated as an air ambulance company at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and deployed to Vietnam / Upon return to the states in October 1971 the unit was relocated to Fort Jackson, SC, Fort Stewart, GA and Fort Benning, GA

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / The medal was established on July 2, 1926, and is currently awarded to any persons who, after April 6, 1917, distinguish themselves by single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight / Both heroism and extraordinary achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Armed Forces Honor Medal was a military decoration of South Vietnam that was first created on 7 January 1953 / The medal was awarded in two classes and reached its height of bestowal during the Vietnam War / It was frequently awarded to members of foreign militaries, including military advisors of the United States Armed Forces / The Armed Forces Honor Medal was awarded to any member of the military who actively contributed to the formation and organization of the Vietnamese military in South Vietnam and who actively participating in cadre training of Vietnamese units / It was intended for non-combat achievements / The first-class medal was awarded to commissioned officers and the second class medals were awarded to warrant officers and enlisted personnel

The Combat Medical Badge is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945 / Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB / According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy

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

Specialist Fourth-Class John Joseph Levulis was also awarded:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: **LEWIS**

DAVID A.

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:

David A. Lewis honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Lewis retired as an Engineer from Praxair, Inc / David A. Lewis passed away on 23 July 2024 at the age of 84 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEWIS

ERIC

O.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 1019 CLINTON STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH 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 Eric Oakley Lewis honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Eric Lewis was deployed to Vietnam on 20 November 1969 as a Rifleman / PFC Eric Lewis was Killed In Action on 2 February 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

PFC Eric Lewis and PFC Gardner of CUPP (Combined Unit Pacification Program) Team #4 were on board a civilian vehicle on HWY 535 in the vicinity of Phu Thai in Que Son District Quang traveling from their Platoon CP to their squad's position / The vehicle struck a buried box mine and the explosion completely destroyed the vehicle instantly killing PFC Eric Oakley / PFC Gardner was evacuated to the Stations Hospital NSA in DaNang where he died as a result of the multiple fragmentation wounds received in the blast

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Eric Oakley attended Emerson Vocational School / Oakley enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 29 November 1968 / Eric Oakley Lewis was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Limestone Cemetery, Limestone, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Eric Oakley Lewis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 94

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

The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (1/7) is an infantry battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps / It is currently based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines, it is part of the 1st Marine Division / The 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment was created on 1 April 1921 in San Diego, California / 1/7 deployed to take part in the Pacific Theater during World War II and participated in the battles of Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa / The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines was deployed to Vietnam in August 1965, participating in numerous combat operations such as Starlite, Piranha, Mameluke Thrust and Oklahoma Hills

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: **LEWIS**

WILLIAM

C.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

William C. Lewis honorably served in the United States Navy and the Naval Reserves

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Lewis was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and moved to Buffalo / Lewis graduated from East High School in 1963 / After his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy, Lewis earned a degree from Bryant & Stratton Business Institute and the University of Buffalo / William Lewis worked for Allied Chemical Corp., Otis Elevator and the former Meyer Memorial Hospital (now ECMC) / Lewis went to work for the Marine Midland Bank where he was a Financial Analyst for more than 20 years / Lewis was also a Certified Independent Insurance Agent and a Notary Public / In 1982, the Mayor of Buffalo appointed Lewis as the First Project Director of the Pratt-Wilbert Housing Project / Lewis also worked for the United States Postal Service for over 27 years as a Driver and Letter Carrier, retiring in 2013 / Lewis headed the Finance Commission for St. John Baptist Church, where he was also a deacon, teacher and elder / William Lewis served as President of the Senior Choir, sang tenor and often, as a soloist / William C. Lewis passed away on 18 October 2023 at the age of 78 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEYH

JOHN H.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant John H. Leyh honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Leyh was deployed to Vietnam as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist

John Leyh was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 17 February 1971

Base Assignments:

Phù Cát Air Force Base, Vietnam - Phù Cát Air Base (1966–1975) was a United States Air Force (USAF) and Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) facility used during the Vietnam War (1959–1975) / The base was located north of the city of Qui Nhơn in southern Vietnam / On 5 December 1971 the base was formally turned over to the RVNAF

Howard Air Force Base, Panama - Howard Air Force Base is a former United States Air Force base located in Panama / It discontinued military operations on 1 November 1999 as a result of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which specified that US military facilities in the former Panama Canal Zone be closed and the facilities be turned over to the Panamanian government / Carved out of the jungle, 500 yards from the Pacific Ocean, Howard Air Base opened in 1942 / It was named after Major Charles H. Howard (1892–1936), who flew in Panama in the late 1920s / For over 50 years, Howard Air Force Base was the bastion of US air power in Central and South America / Howard AFB served as the center for counter-drug operations, military and humanitarian airlift, contingencies, joint-nation exercises, and search and rescue / It boasted fighters, cargo planes, tankers, airborne warning and control aircraft, operational support airlift "executive" jets, and search and rescue helicopters

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

John Leyh was a 30 year employee of the Ford Stamping Plant and also a Union Official for the UAW #897 / John H. Leyh passed away on 17 February 2019

An Aircraft Maintenance Specialist in the Air Force is responsible for providing aircraft repair and maintenance services to facilitate safe flying / They ensure all mechanical components of aircraft meet the safety and operational requirements / Other duties include working with crew chiefs and mechanics to plan, schedule and organize aerospace vehicle maintenance to ensure all equipment and machinery is always ready and working whenever it's needed

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

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

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

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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: **LEZARK**

RICHARD J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Richard J. Lezark honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Lezark was assigned as a Rifleman during his tour of duty in Vietnam / Cpl. Lezark was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during combat action

Richard Lezark was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps in September 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Lezark went to work for General Motors, Tonawanda Powertrain, UAW Local 774 where he was employed as an Electrician for 36 years until his retirement / Richard J. Lezark passed away on 12 September 2018

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements

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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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: L'HUILLIER

JOSEPH

A.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address: WHITEHAVEN ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH AIR FORCE, 31ST TACTICAL FIGHTER WING, 136TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Joseph Andre L'huillier honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Joseph L'huillier was deployed to Vietnam as a Tactical Aircraft Pilot / Captain L'huillier was Killed In Action on 25 July 1968 when his aircraft crashed after getting hit by enemy ground fire in Quang Tin province, South Vietnam

On 25 July 1968, Captain Joseph A. L'Huillier was on a strike mission flying F-100 #54-1912 near Thon Sau, 15km S-SE of Heip Duc, South Vietnam / L'Huillier was fatally injured after he ejected from his disabled aircraft west of Chu Lai. Immediately after a high angle dive bomb delivery / Captain L'Huillier's aircraft was believed to have been hit by ground fire / Captain L'Huillier relayed that his aircraft controls were failing and then pulled up into a cloud deck and ejected / No one observed his ejection but his parachute was spotted on the ground a short while later / A rescue helicopter picked him up within 30 minutes, but he died before he could be hospitalized / His fatal injuries were probably incurred upon ejection or landing, with improper chute opening or seat involvement suspected

Captain Joseph L'Huillier enlisted in the Air Force, arrived at the Niagara Falls Air Base as a helicopter pilot and became a jet fighter pilot flying F-100 Aircraft for four years / CAPT L'Huillier accepted a commission in the Air Force about a month before the departure of the 107th Tactical Fighter Group to Vietnam in May 1968

Captain Joseph L'Huillier was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for acts of heroism or



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Andre L'huillier was 29 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

Joseph Andre L'huillier is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 50w, Line 7

The Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea) (7 AF) is a Numbered Air Force of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea / The command's mission is to plan and direct air component operations in the Republic of Korea and in the Northwest Pacific / Established on 19 October 1940 as the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, the 7 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat unit in the Pacific Theater of World War II, providing air defense of the Hawaiian Islands and engaging in combat operations primarily in the Central Pacific AOR / It was assigned units engaging enemy forces in the Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Mariana Islands, and in the last major battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of Okinawa / On 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam / From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force / In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations / The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / The Siege of Khe Sanh ("Operation Niagara") involved significant efforts by Seventh Air Force / More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day / At night, Douglas AC-47 Spooky gunships kept up fire against enemy troops / 7th AF oversaw the ongoing US air campaigns in Cambodia and Laos until the prohibition on offensive operations came into effect on 14 August 1973

The 31st Tactical Fighter Wing (31 FW) is a United States Air Force unit assigned to the United States Air Forces in Europe major command and the Third Air Force / The 31st Fighter Wing first activated in 1947 / The 31st wing arrived at Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam and was assigned to the 7th Air Force, on Christmas Day 1966 / The wing provided close air support and air interdiction for US and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units in the central region of the country / In 1968 they helped defend installations against enemy forces during the Tet Offensive and the siege of Khe Sanh and were later singled out for their outstanding contribution during the extraction of friendly forces from Kham Duc / They reached the 100,000 combat sortie milestone in September 1969 / The wing earned two Outstanding Unit Awards, one with a combat "V" device, a Presidential Unit Citation, two Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm and ten campaign streamers for action in Vietnam / On 15 October 1970, the wing returned to Homestead as part of the United States force reduction in Vietnam

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / The medal was established on July 2, 1926, and is currently awarded to any persons who, after April 6, 1917, distinguish themselves by single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight / Both



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

heroism and extraordinary achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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: LICHT, SR.

GUY

A.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (GRENADE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (AUTOMATIC RIFLE)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Guy Andrew Licht, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Guy Licht was assigned as a Cargo Handler while stationed in Vietnam for 12 months / SP-4 Licht, Sr. was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service in a combat zone

Guy Licht, Sr. received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 14 June 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Guy Andrew Licht, Sr. passed away on 16 April 2019 at the Veterans Administrative (VA) Hospital in Buffalo, New York

Army Cargo Specialists are experts in cargo handling operations / They are responsible for cargo documentation, securing cargo, and the loading/unloading of cargo through the operation of material handling equipment (MHE) / They make sure their fellow troops have the supplies, weapons, and equipment they need and oversee the transfer of passengers and cargo / Army cargo specialists use all manner of transport over land, air, and water to get the goods the troops need to where the troops are stationed / Cargo Specialists inspect, count, and document cargo, sometimes manually and sometimes via automated methods / They load and unload all manner of equipment and supplies from docks, rail cars, warehouses, aircraft, and motor vehicles / Specialists



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

are also responsible for maintaining and operating winches, cranes, and forklifts and load air and sea shipments, including equipment in ocean liners

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

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

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

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

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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: LICURSI, JR.

JOSEPH

A.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Joseph A. Licursi, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph A. Licursi, Jr. passed away on 25 February 2023

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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: **LIEBRECHT**

RICHARD H.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1958

Year Discharged: 1960

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Richard H. Liebrecht honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Richard Liebrecht was assigned as a Heavy Weapons Infantryman and stationed at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

PFC Richard Liebrecht was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 10 November 1960

Base Assignments:

Fort George Meade, Maryland - Fort Meade became an active Army installation in 1917 and was named in honor of Major Gen. George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg proved a major factor in turning the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North / Fort Meade was used as a World War II recruit training post / In September 1943, the first shipment of 1,632 Italian and 58 German prisoners arrived at Fort Meade / Fort Meade is the Army's second largest installation by population with more than 64,000 employees that represent the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force / Fort Meade's more than 120 partner agencies include the DoD's newest Combatant Command - US Space Force, as well as the National Security Agency, DISA/JFH DODIN Combatant Command - U.S. Space Force, U.S. Cyber Command - the National Security Agency, Defense Information Systems Agency/Joint Forces Headquarters for the Department of Defense Information Network, Defense Media Activity, and several non-DoD agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency and Architect of the Capitol

Miscellaneous:

Richard Liebrecht retired from the Buffalo Fire Department with 31 years of service from 1967-1998 / Richard H. Liebrecht passed away on 17 January 2023 at the age of 86 years old

Heavy Weapons Infantryman employ, engage, and eliminate threats with a variety of heavy weapons, in an



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) and Heavy Weapons Company / Heavy Weapons Infantryman support Battalion Commanders mission with the versatility of the Weapons Company capabilities providing close and long-range missile and heavy machine gun fires and provides anti-armor tactics

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

The 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: **LILAC SR.**
DEAN E.

Hometown: WHEATFIELD

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Dean E. Lilac honorably served in the United States Army as an instructor for Jungle Operations at Fort Sherman, Panama

Base Assignments:

Fort Sherman, Panama - Fort Sherman is a former United States Army base in Panama, located on Toro Point at the Caribbean (northern) end of the Panama Canal, on the western bank of the Canal directly opposite Colón (which is on the eastern bank) / It was the primary defensive base for the Caribbean sector of the Canal, and was also the center for US jungle warfare training for some time / Its Pacific-side partner was Fort Amador / Both bases were turned over to Panama in 1999

Miscellaneous:

Dean Lilac graduated from Tonawanda High School in 1964 and in 1966, Lilac enlisted in the U.S. Army / After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Lilac worked for over thirty years at National Fuel Gas until his retirement / Lilac was the official Bugler for the Chapter #77 Vietnam Veterans of America (Tonawanda) / Dean E. Lilac Sr. passed away at the age of 75 years old on 14 May 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LINDELL**

GARY

H.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gary Lindell honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Lindell retired from the General Motors Plant, Buffalo / Gary H. Lindell passed away on 25 January 2023 at the age of 73 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LINGLE, SR.**

HERBERT

C.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1961

Year Discharged: 1964

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Herbert C. Lingle, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Herbert Lingle entered the U.S. Navy Reserve on 26 June 1961, after graduating from High School / During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Lingle was ordered to active duty on 8 March 1962 and assigned to the USS Essex aircraft carrier / Herbert Lingle served in the Navy for 36 months, including 24 months of foreign/sea duty

Herbert Lingle received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy on 6 March 1964

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Herbert Lingle was a member of United Auto Workers (UAW #897) and Past Vice-President of Abate Buffalo/Erie Chapter / Herbert Lingle was a member of American Legion Post # 567, Orchard Park, New York / Herbert C. Lingle, Sr. passed away on 23 March 2026 at the age of 82 years old

USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) was an aircraft carrier and the lead ship of the 24-ship Essex class built for the United States Navy during World War II / She was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name / Commissioned on 31 December 1942, Essex participated in several campaigns in the World War II Pacific Theater of Operations, earning the Presidential Unit Citation and 13 battle stars / Decommissioned shortly after the end of the war, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), eventually becoming an antisubmarine aircraft carrier (CVS) / In her second career, she served mainly in the Atlantic, playing a role in the Cuban Missile Crisis / She also participated in the Korean War, earning four battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation / She was the primary recovery carrier for the Apollo 7 space mission / Essex was decommissioned on 30 June 1969 at Boston Navy Yard / She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 June 1973 and sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 1 June 1975 / Essex



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

was scrapped at Kearny, New Jersey

Name: LIPKA

RICHARD P.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard P. Lipka honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Richard Lipka, embarked on a career in Education / Lipka taught at Smallwood Drive Elementary School, St. Bonaventure, and Pittsburg University in Pittsburg, Kansas / Lipka was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Cheektowaga Historical Society / Richard P. Lipka passed away on 29 November 2024 after a long bout with Parkinson's Disease at the age of 83 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LIVINGSTON**

RICHARD T.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard T. Livingston honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard T. Livingston passed away on 25 March 2024 at the age of 85 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: **LIVINGSTON**

RONALD H.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1955

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ronald H. Livingston honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Livingston was a well-known contractor and developer on Grand Island and in Swain, New York / Livingston was the President of Grand Island Builders Association and a Freemason / Ronald H. Livingston passed away on 22 November 2021 at the age of 83 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOBAUGH
HOWARD**

Hometown: WALES

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:

Howard Lobaugh honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Howard Lobaugh was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Lobaugh is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rademacher VFW Post #5861

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: **LOBL**
HENRY

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Henry Lobl honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry Lobl graduated from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Cornell University / Lobl was a member of the Lions Club / Henry Lobl passed away on 16 November 2025 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOBSINGER**
BRUCE M.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2ND MEDICAL BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Bruce M. Lobsinger honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Bruce Lobsinger was classified as a Medical Specialist and served 13 months of foreign service in South Korea, assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, US Army Pacific

Sergeant Bruce Lobsinger received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 9 September 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bruce M. Lobsinger passed away on 24 August 2023 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Medical Battalion was a Divisional medical unit developed to furnish medical support for the Infantry Division. Its primary mission was to organize and conduct the necessary evacuation and medical care for casualties of the Division¹. The Medical Battalion was responsible for the evacuation of ALL casualties from the Infantry Battalion and Regimental Aid Stations. If casualties could not be gathered at the Aid Stations, the Collecting Companies would remove casualties directly from the field¹. The Medical Battalion always accompanied the Division in the field¹.

The 2nd Medical Battalion was a Divisional medical unit developed to furnish medical support for the Infantry Division / Its primary mission was to organize and conduct the necessary evacuation and medical care for casualties of the Division / The Medical Battalion was responsible for the evacuation of all casualties from the



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Infantry Battalion and Regimental Aid Stations / If casualties could not be gathered at the Aid Stations, the Collecting Companies would remove casualties directly from the field / The Medical Battalion always accompanied the Division in the field / The Medical Battalion is organized as a "miniature" medical organization in order to maintain the best operative coordination of all the existing facilities and to give flexibility to a possible expansion of the medical service when necessary

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOFTUS**

FRANCIS R.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Francis Robert "Bob" Loftus honorably served in the United States Navy / Francis Loftus was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis Loftus was a retired steel product Manufacturing Representative and a member of Our Lady of Hope Council 3076 Knights of Columbus / Francis Robert "Bob" Loftus passed away on 19 February 2026 at the age of 79 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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

Name: LOGUE

JOSEPH

F.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph F. Logue honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Logue was a Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) / Joseph F. Logue passed away on 27 November 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOMANDO**
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 Lomando honorably served in the United States Military / James Lomando 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: **LOMEO**
JOHN

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:

John Lomeo honorably served in the United States National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Lomeo graduated from the Buffalo Technical High School and received his Associate's Degree in Applied Science from the Erie County Technical Institute / Lomeo was employed by the City of Buffalo as a Senior Architect / Lomeo also had a career in Real Estate, founding his own Real Estate company, Cambridge Group Ltd in Las Vegas, Nevada / Lomeo moved to Henderson, Nevada where he passed away on 29 June 2024 at the age of 86 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LONCAR**

GEORGE

M.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

309TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Captain George Michael Loncar honorably served as an Intelligence Officer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George M. Loncar was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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 309th Fighter Squadron was initially established under Third Air Force in early 1942 as a fighter squadron at Baer Field, Indiana, flying some antisubmarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico / Deployed to the European Theater of Operations (ETO) in June 1942 without aircraft as its Curtiss P-40 Warhawks and Bell P-39 Airacobras were deemed unsuitable for use against German aircraft in long-range bomber escort duties / Was re-equipped with RAF Spitfire Vs and its pilots and technicians spent a two-month period undergoing intensive training in flying and fighting with RAF pilots in the British aircraft from airfields in southeast England / The squadron flew its first combat mission on 18 August 1942, when it attacked enemy positions in occupied France / By the end of World War II, the squadron had earned two Distinguished Unit Citations and was involved in eight campaigns / Was deployed to Southeast Asia, 1964 as part of advisory forces operating against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam / Reassigned back to TAC at Homestead AFB in 1970, as part of re-establishment of 31st TFW upon its return from duty in Southeast Asia / Equipped with McDonnell F-4E Phantom IIs / Was deployed to Thailand, July 1972, engaging North Vietnamese forces in northern South Vietnam in response to the communist



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

spring offensive / Returned to the United States in the late fall 1972



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LONG

DENNIS W.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

827TH AIR DEFENSE GROUP

Medals / Citations:

AIRMAN'S MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Dennis W. Long honorably served in the United States Air Force / Dennis Long was assigned as an Electrical Power Production Specialist at the 827th Air Defense Group, Keno Air Force Station, Oregon

Dennis Long received his Honorable Discharge on 24 March 1971 at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon

Base Assignments:

Keno Air Force Station, Oregon - A Cold War Air Force Radar Station first established in 1958 near Keno, Klamath County, Oregon, it was named Keno Air Force Station after the location / The station initially had both a Ground-Control Intercept (GCI) and early warning mission / The early warning mission involved tracking and identifying all aircraft entering their airspace while the GCI mission involved guiding Air Force interceptors to any identified enemy aircraft / The Keno Air Force Station was deactivated as a USAF radar site on 30 Sept 1979, the abandoned Air Force buildings were removed in the early 1990s and a much smaller compound was established for the FAA search radar and other facilities / The site became Klamath Falls FAA Radar Site

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Long was a Truck Driver until his retirement / Dennis W. Long passed away on 18 March 2025

The 827 Air Defense Group was activated on 1 March 1970 / The 827th Provided administrative and logistical support to units and elements of the 25th Air Division as directed / In In 1959 the 827th Squadron began operating an AN/FPS-20A search radar and a pair of AN/FPS-6A height-finder radars at Keno Air Force Station until the station was deactivated in 1979



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Airman's Medal was established on July 6, 1960, and takes the place of the Soldier's Medal for Air Force personnel / It is awarded to any member of the armed forces of the United States or of a friendly nation who, while serving in any capacity with the United States Air Force after the date of the award's authorization, has distinguished himself or herself by a heroic act, usually at the voluntary risk of his or her life but not involving actual combat / The saving of a life or the success of the voluntary heroic act is not essential / The Airman's Medal is not awarded for normal performance of duties

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: **LONG**

MARVIN A.

Hometown: CRITTENDEN

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:

Marvin A. Long honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Marvin Long was employed by National Fuel where he worked for over 30 years until his retirement / Long was a member and Past Chief of the Crittenden Volunteer Fire Company / Marvin A. Long passed away on 6 July 2024 at the age of 84 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LONG

PAUL J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant Paul J. Long honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul J. Long passed away on 25 October 2013



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LONG

WILLIAM D.

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:

William D. "Bill" Long honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Long graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1969 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Long trained as a paramedic at Kansas City University and served his community as a volunteer firefighter with the Ellwood Fire Department / William Long and played a key role in establishing the first paramedic program for the Town of Tonawanda / An accomplished entrepreneur and business consultant, Bill achieved success with Buffalo Alarm, Merchant Network, and numerous other ventures before following his passion for service by opening SPAR Self Defense / William Long also founded the WNY Anti-Bully Project for children, which was honored with the Buffalo Builders of Peace Award / William D. "Bill" Long passed away on 18 February 2026 at the age of 74 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LONGBINE**

RICHARD S.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 5TH BATTALION, 83RD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 3rd Class Richard S. Longbine honorably served in the United States Army / SP-3 Richard Longbine was assigned as a Medical Specialist while deployed in Europe for 18 months

SP-3 Richard Longbine was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 11 April 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Longbine was a graduate of Frontier High School in Hamburg, New York / Richard S. Longbine passed away on 1 December 2017

Army Medical Specialist is a military enlisted person trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment

The 83rd Field Artillery Regiment is a regiment of the Field Artillery Branch of the United States Army / 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 Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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: **LORETTO, JR.**

PETER J.

Hometown: EDEN

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Peter J. Loretto, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Peter Loretto was deployed to Vietnam for 1 year and 4 months as a Hercules Missile Crewman in Germany

On 15 September 2024, the bridge on State Route 75, which crosses Eighteen Mile Creek in Eden, was dedicated and named as the "Specialist Peter J. Loretto, Jr. Memorial Bridge" / The event honored Specialist Peter J. Loretto, Jr., a distinguished Vietnam War veteran and lifelong public servant.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter Loretto spent 33 years as highway superintendent for the Town of Eden and was a founding member of the Erie County Association of Highway Superintendents / Peter Loretto was a member of the North Oregon Volunteer Fire Department for 48 years and served as 1st Assistant Chief, 2nd Assistant Chief and Fire Chief / Peter J. Loretto, Jr. passed away on 8 October 2016 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, New Oregon, New York

The Nike Hercules, initially designated SAM-A-25 and later MIM-14, was a surface-to-air missile (SAM) used by U.S. and NATO armed forces for medium- and high-altitude long-range air defense / It was normally armed with the W31 nuclear warhead, but could also be fitted with a conventional warhead for export use / Its warhead also allowed it to be used in a secondary surface-to-surface role, and the system also demonstrated its ability to hit other short-range missiles in flight

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOSCHIAVO**

AUGUSTINE M.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1961

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Augustine M. Loschiavo honorably served in the United States Army / Augustine Loschiavo was assigned as a Decontamination Specialist and stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama

Augustine Loschiavo was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 5 November 1963, with reserve obligations ending 5 November 1967

Base Assignments:

Fort McClellan, Alabama - Originally Camp McClellan, is a decommissioned United States Army post located adjacent to the city of Anniston, Alabama / During World War II, it was one of the largest U.S. Army installations, training an estimated half-million troops / After the war it became the home of the Military Police Corps, the Chemical Corps and the Women's Army Corps / From 1975 until it was closed in 1999, Fort McClellan was home of the Military Police Corps and the One Station Unit Training (OSUT) Military Police School and was home of the Chemical Corps School, which trained soldiers in chemical warfare / In 1988, Fort McClellan was used as an alternate training academy for the United States Border Patrol, before its closure by the Base Realignment and Closure commission (BRAC)

Miscellaneous:

Augustine Loschiavo worked for General Motors for over 30 years / After his retirement from General Motors, Loschiavo kept busy working as a shuttle driver for Mercedes Benz /Augustine M. "Augie" Loschiavo passed away on 14 October 2024 at the age of 85 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOTEMPIO, JR.**

FRANK

L.

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 L. LoTempio, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank LoTempio graduated from Lafayette High School, where he was class president and quarterback on the football team / LoTempio earned a political science degree at the University at Buffalo and then attended a law school in Toledo, Ohio, becoming an attorney in 1974 / Frank LoTempio was a partner in the LoTempio & Brown law firm (now known as the LoTempio Group) for decades / LoTempio was a member of the Lafayette High School Hall of Fame, the Good Government Club and the Italian American Police Association / Frank L. LoTempio, Jr., Esq. passed away on 25 November 2025 at the age of 83 years old

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOTEMPIO, SR.**

RONALD L.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1959

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Ronald L. LoTempio, Sr. honorably served in the Army National Guard / PFC Ronald LoTempio was assigned as a Bandsman - Trumpet player

PFC Ronald LoTempio received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 2 May 1959

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald LoTempio was a Bank Clerk until his retirement / Ronald L. LoTempio, Sr. passed away on 1 February 2025 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LOUNSBURY, JR.**

HERBERT N.

Hometown: WEST FALLS

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Herbert N. Lounsbury, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Herbert N. "Herby" Lounsbury, Jr. passed away on 28 August 2024 at the age of 74 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LOVE

ROBERT E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Robert Edward "Bob" Love honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Edward "Bob" Love passed away on 12 August 2025 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn 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: **LUBICK**
RICK

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ralph Lubick honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Lubick graduated from Bennett High School and graduated from the University of Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Pharmacy / Ralph Lubick was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force in 1962 / Ralph Lubick passed away in December 2022 at the age of 86 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LUCCHESI**
GIANCARLO

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 20 MANHART STREET

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, L COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| PURPLE HEART | VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL |
| VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL | COMBAT ACTION RIBBON |
| MARKSMANSHIP BADGE | MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION |
| VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS | MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL |
| NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL | GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL |

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Giancarlo Lucchesi honorably served in the United States Army LCPL Giancarlo Lucchesi was deployed on 17 February 1968 to Vietnam as a Rifleman / LCPL Giancarlo Lucchesi was Killed In Action on 30 April 1968 from an explosive device during combat operations in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

During the month of April 1968 , the 3rd Battalion was conducting operations from the Thon Son Lam Combat Base and on 30 April, an Alpha Command Group, and three Companies deployed by airlift and convoy to participate on Operation KENTUCKY in northern Quang Tri Province / The Marines immediately made contact in the Cam Vu valley with NVA force some 5 kilometers northwest of Dong Ha / The battle would last for several days and thirty four men would be killed in the multiple engagement with many more wounded / LCpl Giancarlo Lucchesi was one of the casualties, on 30 April 1968 he was killed in action by a hostile grenade

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Giancarlo Lucchesi was born in Lucca, Provincia di Lucca, Toscana, Italy / Lucchesi left Canisius High School in his Junior year to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps / Giancarlo Lucchesi completed his high school education through correspondence while stationed in Portsmouth, Virginia / Lucchesi worked in the rectory of St. Michael's Church before military service / Giancarlo "Calo" Lucchesi was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Giancarlo Lucchesi is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53e, Line 17

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 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines (3/9) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I it served until the early 1990s when it was redesignated as 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines (3/4) during a realignment and renumbering of the Marine Corps' infantry battalions, following the deactivation of the 9th Marine Regiment / The 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines was initially a subordinate unit of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, but was later operationally transferred to the 1st Marine Division as a subordinate unit of the 7th Marine Regiment where it remained until its redesignation as 3/4 / The 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines became the first battalion-sized ground combat unit to be deployed to Vietnam when they landed on 8 March 1965 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam / Over the course of the next four and a half years, the battalion operated from Da Nang, An Hoa and Quảng Trị and participated in over 40 combat operations, including Operation Double Eagle, Operation Buffalo and Operation Dewey Canyon / The battalion redeployed on 13 August 1969, after four years of continuous combat operations / Kilo and India companies were deployed to Bien Hoa Air Base to provide ground support, for Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) in May 1972 / They remained at Bien Hoa until January 1973

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: LUKASIK
STANLEY

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Stanley Lukasik honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley Lukasik retired from Quebecor Printing Buffalo in Depew / Stanley Lukasik passed away on 16 July 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUMSDEN

KENNETH J.

Hometown: WILIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth J. Lumsden passed away on 13 November 2024 at the age of 78 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUSCHENAT

JAY

D.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Jay David Luschenat honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jay Luschenat graduated from Kenmore East Senior High School in 1966 before enlisting in the Navy / Jay David Luschenat passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada on 19 December 2014 at the age of 66 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUTHER

ROBERT B.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address: 2600 BASELINE ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY, D 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:

Corporal Robert Benjamin Luther honorably served in the United States Army CPL Robert Luther was deployed to Vietnam on 19 November 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Robert Luther was Killed In Action on 10 May 1970 when a helicopter crashed into his unit in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

On 10 May 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 67-17673) from the 237th Medical Detachment was attempting a mountaintop medical evacuation ten kilometers (6.0 miles) southwest of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province, RVN, when hostile groundfire forced the pilot to abort his final approach and attempt a go around / For his second approach, aircraft commander WO1 Alfred J. Gaidis "dropped to the deck" a couple miles out, then screamed up the hill with 120 knots of airspeed at treetop level to try and sneak past the enemy gunners / His aircraft was caught in a .51 caliber crossfire causing him to abort a second time / As Gaidis peeled off the mountain, fuel streamed from the helicopter / The gunships escorting the medivac radioed for him to immediately set the medivac down / Gaidis' last transmission was "I think I can make it back" before the helicopter, now engulfed in flames, rolled inverted and crashed, killing all four crew members / The location where it went down on the north bank of the Cam Lo River was occupied by a column of infantrymen from "D" Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division / The troopers had just bequeathed responsibility for Fire Support Base Fuller to an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit and were making their way on foot to the Khe Gio Bridge / The flaming UH-1H hit the formation, killing two men, PFC James A. Blackmon and PFC Robert B. Luther / Both were posthumously promoted to Corporal / The lost medivac crew



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

included Gaidis, pilot 1LT Phillip N. Shmitz, crew chief SP4 John A. Largent, and medic SP4 Charles A. Covey

CPL Robert Luther was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Luther graduated from Grand Island High School in 1966 where he was a varsity wrestler and football player / Luther also graduated from Erie County Technical Institute before entering the U.S. Army in 1968 / Robert Benjamin Luther was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Trinity United Methodist Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

Robert Benjamin Luther is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10w, Line 13

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 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) - nicknamed the "Red Diamond", or the "Red Devils", was an infantry division of the United States Army that served in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, and with NATO and the U.S. Army III Corps / The 5th Division was organized in December 1917 from Regular Army troops as a part of the program for the expansion of the armed forces for service in World War I / In 1968 the division was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, as a mechanized formation / 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to South Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to replace a U.S. Marine Corps unit / The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971 defending the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in northern Quảng Trị Province / It was inactivated on 24 November 1992 and reflagged as the 2nd Armored Division

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

Corporal Robert Luther was also awarded:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LYLES**

LEVELZO

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE (SCREAMING EAGLES)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Levelzo "Butch" Lyles honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Levelzo Lyles was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat operations

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Levelzo "Butch" Lyles passed away on 5 May 2020 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / 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 around the city of Bastogne, Belgium / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 / In mid-1968, the division was reorganized and redesignated as an airmobile division; in 1974, as an air assault division / The titles reflect the division's shift from airplanes to helicopters as the primary method of delivering troops into combat / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept the 101st Airborne in the vanguard of U.S. land combat forces in recent conflicts

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LYONS**

MICHAEL D.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS MAST

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Michael D. Lyons honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Lyons was assigned as an Administrative Clerk with the 2nd Marine Regiment

Michael Lyons received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 14 July 1973

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Michael Lyons retired from the Buffalo Police Department / Michael D. Lyons passed away on 10 December 2017 at the age of 65 years old

1st Battalion, 2nd Marines (1/2) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, consisting of approximately 900 Marines and sailors / The battalion, callsign "Typhoon" falls under the command of the 2nd Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / 1/2 was activated on January 1, 1933, at Camp Haitien, Haiti / In June 1942, the battalion was deployed to the Pacific



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theater of World War II participating in the bloody "island hopping" campaign, fighting at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa / After the war, 1/2 spent a brief period on occupation duty in Japan, including Nagasaki, before returning to Camp Lejeune / The battalion has been deployed to the Caribbean and Mediterranean regions, seeing operational service during the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), Dominican intervention (1965), operations in the Persian Gulf (1988), Eastern Exit (Somalia evacuation, 1991), Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990–91), Haitian refugee (1992), Somalia (1993), and Cuba (1994) and Operation Noble Obelisk-Freetown, Sierra Leone (1997)

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 Meritorious Mast is a formal and ceremonial acknowledgment recognizing an enlisted person being awarded a Letter of Appreciation, Certificate of Commendation, or a personal decoration whenever personal performance is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty by a demonstration of exceptional industry, judgment, or initiative

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