



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'CONNELL
DENNIS

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Dennis O'Connell honorably served in the United States Military / Dennis O'Connell was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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

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



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Name: O'CONNELL

JAMES M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "B", 26TH SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

EXPERT BADGE: RIFLE

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Corporal (SP-4) James Michael O'Connell honorably served in the United States Army and served as a Radio Operator

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James M. O'Connell was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

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



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Name: **O'CONNELL**

KEVIN

G.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address: 73 BERKLEY ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Kevin Gerald O'Connell honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Kevin O'Connell was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC Kevin O'Connell was Killed In Action on 29 June 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

After PFC Kevin O'Connell arrived in Vietnam, he was assigned to H & S Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division / The battalion was participating in Operation Choctaw, about 10 kilometers east southeast of Phong Dine when H & S encountered hostile forces during the patrol / PFC O'Connell died as a result of a gunshot to the chest from hostile rifle fire during the engagement

PFC O'Connell was originally to be sent to Vietnam as a Scout / O'Connell was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California for training in Vietnamese, but contracted pneumonia / PFC O'Connell spent a month on the hospital ship, USS Sanctuary, before deploying to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kevin O'Connell graduated from Clarence Senior High School, before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps / Kevin Gerald O'Connell was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo,



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Kevin Gerald O'Connell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 84

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

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / The battalion, nicknamed the Magnificent Bastards from the Vietnam War, is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and is a part of the 5th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the battalion's first assignment was to take part in the assault on Emirau Island / During the remainder of World War II, the battalion saw action in the Battles of Guam (2/4 was the first ashore) and of Okinawa / On Okinawa, the battalion was involved in the fighting for the Motobu Peninsula, the capture of Naha, and the assault on the Oruku Peninsula / In May 1965 the 2nd Battalion landed at Landing Zone (LZ) Blue (west of Green Beach) near Chu Lai / The first combined land operation of the war was Operation Lien Ket 4 between 2/4 and 3rd Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Marine Division on 28 July / The first major engagement for the battalion was Operation Starlite (the first regimental sized battle for American forces since the Korean War) in August 1965 / Beginning in 1966, combat operations measurably increased with the battalion participating in Operation Double Eagle and Operation Hastings, a coordinated Marine/Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) search and destroy mission / The 1968 Tet Offensive resulted in an increase in fighting along the DMZ / A bitter clash started 30 April 1968 and ran through 3 May 1968 between 2/4 and the PAVN 320th Division (8,000 to 10,000 soldiers) that broke out northeast of Dong Ha / To protect the base and also the 3rd Marine Division headquarters, 2/4 reinforced by B/1/3 was moved forward to seize the fortified village and area around Dai Do / The three day Battle of Dai Do was costly for both sides / The PAVN lost nearly 1,500 killed, while 2/4 suffered 81 dead and 397 wounded / By 15 May 1968 the PAVN were driven back north across the DMZ / Total losses for the Marines were 233 killed and 821 wounded / PAVN losses were put at 2,945 killed and 47 POW's / The other major operations that 2/4 was involved in were Operation Lancaster II ran from 21 January to 23 November 1968 / This was a multiple battalion operation was to secure Route 9 between Cam Lo and Ca Lu / Total losses were 359 marines killed 1,713 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 1,801 / Operation Napoleon/Saline ran from 29 February 1968 to 12 September 1968 and was another multi-battalion operation that covered the Cua Viet river area near the South China Sea / Total losses were put at 117 marines killed; PAVN losses were put at 3,495 / Operation Scotland II was a multi-battalion operation that ran from 15 April 1968 to 28 February 1969 in the Khe Sanh area / Total losses were put at 435 marines killed 2,396 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 3,304 / On 6 November 1969, 2/4 was withdrawn to Okinawa as part of the United States policy of gradually turning the war over to the South Vietnamese



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Name: O'CONNOR

JAMES P.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-2

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

USS WALDRON (DD-699)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Seaman Apprentice James P. O'Connor honorably served in the United States Navy

James O'Connor was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on 25 September 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James P. O'Connor passed away on 13 March 2021

USS Waldron (DD-699), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for John C. Waldron, a U.S. Naval aviator who led a squadron of torpedo bombers in World War II / The Waldron was commissioned on 7 June 1944 / Waldron reported for duty in the Pacific in December 1944 as part of the Fast Carrier Task Force (TF-38/58) / Waldron spent her entire World War II service with the fast aircraft carriers / The Waldron remained with the fast carriers during the final strikes on the Japanese home islands / The 15 August 1945 cessation of hostilities found her still off the Japanese coast in company with TF 38 / She screened the carriers while their aircraft covered the initial occupation of Japan / That duty lasted until 10 September, at which time she finally entered Tokyo Bay / During the Vietnam War, the Waldron arrived in Vietnamese waters on 24 August / Ppatrolling near the 17th parallel, she provided gunfire support for the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) during operations ashore during the Vietnam War until September 1967 / During her second tour on the gunline in October 1967, Waldron's main battery supported troops of the Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division and of the South Vietnamese 40th Division / On 30 October 1973, Waldron was decommissioned at Mayport, Florida / She was simultaneously transferred, by sale, to the Colombian Navy / Her



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name was struck from the Navy List on 31 October 1973 / The USS Waldron (DD-699) earned four battle stars during World War II and one battle star for service during the Vietnam War

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Name: O'CONNOR

KEVIN H.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 91 ROSEWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: YNSN

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

NAVSUPPACT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Yeoman Seaman Kevin Harold O'Connor honorably served in the United States Navy and served as a Clerk

Base Assignments:

NAVSUPPACT, DaNang, Vietnam - Naval Support Activity Danang or NSA Danang was a United States Navy logistics support organization located in Danang, South Vietnam active from October 1965 to April 1972

Miscellaneous:

Kevin H. O'Connor was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

Yeoman Seaman perform data entry, typing and routing of official correspondence and other essential reports, organizes and maintains all associated work files in an orderly manner, receives office visitors and handles all necessary telephone communications, performs hands-on work using personal computers for word processing along with using copiers, audio-recording devices, and other office equipment, performs administrative type duties in an office setting, maintains relevant personnel and job records along with other official publications, performs administrative functions that coincide with Navy legal proceedings, acts in the capacity of being an office manager and performs other various clerical and administrative duties as assigned

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'CONNOR**
PHILIP

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Philip O'Connor honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Philip O'Connor was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Philip O'Connor passed away on 30 July 2013 at the age of 64 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'CONNOR**
THOMAS A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas A. O'Connor honorably served in the United States Air Force / O'Connor deferred military service until he completed his residency and served as Chief of Anesthesia at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida

Base Assignments:

MacDill Air Force Base, Florida - MacDill AFB is located in South Tampa and was constructed as MacDill Field, a U.S. Army Air Corps, later U.S. Army Air Forces, installation just prior to World War II / With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as an independent service in September 1947, it became MacDill Air Force Base / During the 1950s and 1960s, it was a Strategic Air Command (SAC) installation for B-47 Stratojet bombers / In the early 1960s, it transitioned to a Tactical Air Command (TAC) installation, briefly operating the F-84 Thunderstreak jet fighter before transitioning to the F-4 Phantom II / During the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s, it operated F-4 Phantom II fighters under various fighter wings, followed by F-16 Fighting Falcons in the mid-1980s to early 1990s / MacDill became an Air Mobility Command installation in 1996 and home to the 6th Air Refueling Wing, its 310th Airlift Squadron flying the C-37A, and its 50th Air Refueling Squadron and 91st Air Refueling Squadron flying the KC-135 / The 6 ARW is further augmented by the Air Force Reserve Command's 927th Air Refueling Wing and 63d Air Refueling Squadron also flying KC-135s / MacDill AFB is also home to the headquarters for two of the U.S. military's unified combatant commands: Headquarters, United States Central Command, and Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command / Both commands are independent from one another and each is commanded by a respective four-star general or admiral

Miscellaneous:

Born in the Bronx, Thomas O'Connor attended a Catholic elementary school and Manhattan College Preparatory School / O'Connor enrolled in premed studies at the University of Notre Dame, earning his Bachelor's Degree in 1966 and completing his medical degree at the University of Buffalo in 1970 / After graduation, Dr. Thomas O'Connor served his residency in internal medicine at Buffalo General Hospital and later accepted a residency at



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Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston / From 1976 to 1979, Dr. O'Connor became Chairman of the Anesthesia Department at Deaconess Hospital and then moved to St. Francis Hospital from 1978 to 1988 as the Chief Anesthesiologist / Dr. O'Connor served as chief of the Anesthesia Department at Kenmore Mercy Hospital from 1989 to 2006 / Dr. O'Connor served as a consultant with the Medical Legal Department at Buffalo Veterans Affairs Medical Center and chief of anesthesia for Invision Health of Williamsville / Dr. Thomas O'Connor was a founder of the Right to Life Party in Erie County / An officer in the Catholic Physicians Guild, Dr. O'Connor received the Pro Vita Award from the Diocese of Buffalo in 1999 / Dr. O'Connor was a member of the Erie County and New York State Medical Societies, the Society of Catholic Social Scientists and the Catholic Medical Association / Dr. O'Connor served for decades on the Board of Directors of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia / Dr. Thomas O'Connor was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2001 and the Physician Benefactor Award from the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress in 2005 / Dr. Thomas A. O'Connor passed away on 23 May 2024 at the age of 79 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'CONNOR
THOMAS**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Thomas O'Connor honorably served in the United States Military / Thomas O'Connor was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'DONNELL
AL

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Alwin H. "Butch" O'Donnell honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Al O'Donnell was deployed to Vietnam

SFC Al O'Donnell also participated in the Persian Gulf War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Al O'Donnell was a life member of the American Legion Post #721, AMVETS, DAV, 74/174 Vets Club and a gold club member of the Carriagers Club / Alwin H. "Butch" O'Donnell passed away on 4 December 2021



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'DONNELL

JOHN

B.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

John B. O'Donnell honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John B. O'Donnell passed away on 16 February 2025



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Name: **OEHLER**

ALBERT J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

Albert John Oehler, II honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry / Albert Oehler was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat operations

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Albert Oehler spent 40 years as a refrigerator mechanic for Pepsi / Albert John Oehler, II passed away on 2 October 2024 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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

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



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case posthumously



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OERTEL

KARL

M.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 1979

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY RIBBON W/SERVICE STAR

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Karl M. G. Oertel honorably served in the United States Air Force / Karl Oertel trained as a Heavy Equipment Operator and served for 6 years 11 months on active duty

Karl Oertel was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 29 January 1979

Base Assignments:

Loring Air Force Base, Maine – Loring AFB was a United States Air Force installation in northeastern Maine, near Limestone and Caribou in Aroostook County / It was one of the largest bases of the U.S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command during its existence, and was transferred to the newly created Air Combat Command in 1992 / Constructed in 1947, the base was originally named Limestone Army Air Field, and was renamed Limestone Air Force Base following the establishment of the Air Force in 1947 / It was named in 1954 for Major Charles J. Loring, Jr., USAF, a Medal of Honor recipient during the Korean War / From 1951 to 1962, it was co-located next to Caribou Air Force Station / For the majority of its operational lifetime, Loring was a heavy bomber, aerial refueling, and interception facility for military aircraft, equipment, and supplies first as part of Strategic Air Command (SAC) (1947–1992), then as part of the succeeding Air Combat Command (ACC) (1992–1994) / After 41 years in operation, Loring AFB officially closed on 30 September 1994

Miscellaneous:

Karl M. G. Oertel passed away on 24 October 2025 at the age of 73 years old

The mission of the 42nd Civil Engineer Squadron is to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate real property facilities and provide related management, engineering and other support work and services. To do this the



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squadron is organized into seven branches: Unit Administration, Financial Management, Engineering and Environmental Planning, Operations, Fire Protection, Family Housing Management and Industrial Engineering

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OGNIBENE**
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 Ognibene honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Ognibene passed away on 30 August 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OGUICH**

GEORGE N.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1957

Year Discharged: 1959

Unit / Squadron:

1ST BATTLE GROUP, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 11TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (PISTOL)

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class George N. Oguich honorably served in the United States Army / PFC George Oguich was deployed for 17 months of foreign service with US Army Europe in Germany, Italy and France as an Intermediate Speed Radio Operator

PFC George N. Oguich was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on 2 December 1959

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George N. Oguich passed away on 21 September 2022 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Intermediate Speed Radio Operators install and operate tactical field radio transmitting and receiving equipment; sends and receives messages by International Morse Code (CW, ICW, or tone) signals and by light signals / Normally operates in divisional, brigade, and equivalent radio nets

The 34th Infantry Regiment (special designation "Leyte Dragons") is a Regular Army infantry regiment of the United States Army / It saw combat in World War I, in the Pacific Theater of Operations in World War II, and was the first full American regiment deployed in combat in the Korean War / The 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 34th are now basic training formations attached to the 165th Infantry Brigade at Fort Jackson, South Carolina / The



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The 34th was awaiting embarkation on 7 December 1941 when the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II / The regiment was reassigned to the Hawaiian Department and its convoy rerouted to Oahu, where it arrived on 21 December 1941 / The 34th was put in department reserve and assigned to the defense of the island / On 12 June 1943 the 34th was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, replacing the 298th Infantry, a Hawaiian National Guard unit that had been severely depleted the previous year when its ethnic Japanese soldiers were reassigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion / In September 1943, the division shipped out to Australia for training / The 34th served as division reserve during the Operation Reckless landings at Tanahmerah Bay, Netherlands New Guinea on 22 April 1944 / The regiment was brought ashore and assisted in mopping-up operations around the Hollandia airdrome / The 34th Infantry, operating as an element of the 24th Infantry Division, participated in some of the most horrific combat under the most insufferable weather and terrain conditions of the War in the Pacific / Yet for the entire campaign U.S. forces losses were minimal / The mopping up activities on the island of Mindanao lasting into September 1945 would result in 22,000 Japanese soldiers emerging from the central Mindanao jungles to surrender / More than 10,000 Japanese died in combat on Mindanao, while 8,000 or more died from starvation or disease during the campaign / From 17 April to 15 August 1945, 820 U.S. soldiers were killed in eastern Mindanao and 2,880 were wounded; many more deaths and injuries were after 15 August / The 34th Infantry would go on to occupy the southern Japanese island of Kyushu

The 24th Infantry Division was an infantry division of the United States Army that was formed during World War II from the disbanding Hawaiian Division / The division saw action throughout the Pacific theater, first fighting in New Guinea before landing on the Philippine islands of Leyte and Luzon, driving Japanese forces from them / Following the end of the war, the division participated in occupation duties in Japan, and was the first division to respond at the outbreak of the Korean War / For the first 18 months of the war, the division was heavily engaged on the front lines with North Korean and Chinese forces, suffering over 10,000 casualties / It was withdrawn from the front lines to the reserve force for the remainder of the war after the second battle for Wonju, but returned to Korea for patrol duty at the end of major combat operations / After its deployment in the Korean War, the division was active in Europe and the United States during the Cold War / The 24th Infantry Division was inactivated in October 1996

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OHNSORG**

ROGER

W.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Roger W. Ohnsorg honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Roger Ohnsorg was born on Staten Island, New York / Ohnsorg graduated from Alfred University in 1959 with a degree in Ceramic Engineering / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Roger Ohnsorg took a position with Carborundum Corporation in Keasbey, New Jersey and was later transferred to Niagara Falls, earning an MBA, and finishing his career at Carborundum /The research conducted by Ohnsorg led to several patents and participation in international conferences / Roger Ohnsorg developed a deep love and appreciation of the Niagara Falls area and its history, authoring two books, "The Bridges of Goat Island", and "Robert Lindley Murray - The Reluctant U.S. Tennis Champion" / Roger W. Ohnsorg passed away on 22 October 2012 at the age of 75 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OKON

WALTER C.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Walter Chester Okon honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter Chester "Whitey" Okon passed away on 3 January 2025 at the age of 79 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'LEARY, JR.

JOHN

J.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John J. "Jack" O'Leary, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John O'Leary was a member of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Nash Council / John J. "Jack" O'Leary, Jr. passed away on 16 September 2025 and donated his body to the UB Anatomical Gift Program



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OLEJNICZAK, JR.**

RICHARD R.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

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:

Richard R. Olejniczak, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Olejniczak was retired from Quebecor (Arcata Graphics) / Richard R. Olejniczak, Jr. passed away on 2 December 2025 at the age of 74 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OLEWNICZAK, SR.**

ARTHUR M.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

326TH TRANSPORT DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

OVERSEAS BARS (4)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Arthur M. Olewniczak, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam in July 1966

Arthur Olewniczak reenlisted for another year in Vietnam and assigned to the 326th Transport Detachment to June of 1968 / Olewniczak was honorably discharged on 10 July 1972 with a total of 8 years and 16 days of active service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Arthur M. Olewniczak, Sr. passed away on 25 June 2024 at the age of 77 years old

The Transportation Corps is concerned with supplying, loading, and unloading combat vehicles, cargo and materiel into combat mission readiness / They also protect transportation assets and ensure that the equipment is used properly to reach its destination successfully

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



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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OLIVIERI, SR.

GENE

M.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gene M. Olivieri, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gene Olivieri worked for Pepsi Cola Buffalo Bottling for many years / Olivieri was a member of the Lake Erie Italian Club, as well as the Galanti Athletic Association / Gene M. Olivieri, Sr. passed away on 23 January 2026 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OLSON**

DONALD

W.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Donald W. Olson honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Olson volunteered at the US Air Force Base as a Chaplain, ran the Niagara Bible Conference in Olcott, NY for over a decade and volunteered as a Chaplain for Niagara County jails as a counselor / Donald W. Olson passed away after a bout with cancer on 3 June 2010 at the age of 62 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OLSON**

RICHARD J.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

67TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Richard J. Olson honorably served in the United States Army as a Cook and also served with the 67th Military Police Company

Richard Olson was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 2 August 1968

Base Assignments:

Fort Devens, Massachusetts - Fort Devens is a United States Army Reserve military installation in Worcester County in Massachusetts and was established on 5 September 1917 / It was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / In 1940, at the onset of World War II, Fort Devens was designated a reception center for all men in New England who would serve one year as draftees / The 1st, 32nd, and 45th Divisions trained at Devens during World War II / Devens also housed a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian prisoners from 1944 to 1946 / It was designated as early as 1942 for detaining "enemy aliens" of Italian, German and Japanese birth / The U.S. Army post which resided at Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

Miscellaneous:

Richard J. Olson passed away on 11 January 2018

Food Service Specialists function in every aspect of food preparation, including administration, procurement, storage, and distribution / They plan menus, purchase supplies, cook food, operate food service equipment, and provide customer service / Food Service Specialist training includes: standard and dietetic menu planning; food preparation and cooking; basic nutrition; storage of meats, poultry, and other perishable items; dining service operations; and food and supply ordering



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The 67th Military Police Company was constituted 12 February 1944 in the Army of the United States and activated 25 February 1944 in Algeria / The 67th MP participated in the battles of Rome-Arno; Southern France; Rhineland; and Central Europe during World War II / The company was officially inactivated on July 31, 1955 at Camp McCauley and on 22 July 1963 activated in France / the 67th MP Company was again inactivated 22 June 1972 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and then activated 16 May 2006 at Fort Lewis, Washington

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'MARA

WILLIAM J.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1ST LT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

ORDNANCE CORPS

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant William J. O'Mara honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT William O'Mara was deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the Ordnance Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William J. O'Mara passed away on 10 August 2020 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission is to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility materiel during peace and war to provide combat power to the U.S. Army



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ONDESKO
THEODORE

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Theodore Ondesko honorably served in the United States Military / Theodore Ondesko was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: O'NEILL

DANIEL P.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Daniel P. O'Neill honorably served in the United States Military / Daniel O'Neill was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORLANDO**
RALPH

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:

Ralph Orlando honorably served in the United States Military / Ralph Orlando was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORNDOFF**

C.

R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: O-2

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

1ST BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (1/12), 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/V DEVICE (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

RVN CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

RVN ARMED FORCES HONOR MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant C. Richard "Dick" Orndoff honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Orndoff served 12 months of combat in Vietnam as an Infantry Unit Commander with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment (1/12), 4th Infantry Division / 1st LT C. Orndoff earned the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for heroics while engaged in military operations against enemy forces / 1st LT Orndoff was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat action

C. Richard Orndoff was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 26 June 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

C. Orndoff worked for over twenty years in the New York States Mental Health Field / C. Richard "Dick" Orndoff passed away on 15 May 2021 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

An Infantry Unit Commander is a senior infantry soldier who is responsible for the care of the squad's soldiers and everything the squad does or fails to do / A Unit Commander works at all levels of command and staff and executes mission command of infantry and combined arms forces in combat



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The 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism and has been awarded 19 Presidential Unit Citations, five Valorous Unit Awards, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, two citations in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army, Nine Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal Third Class, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Belgian Fourragere / 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 Dầu Tiếng 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 12th Infantry unique in that the regiment had more battalions deployed in Vietnam than any other infantry regiment / One soldier from the 1st Battalion was awarded the Medal of Honor

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

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

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal was a military decoration of South Vietnam that was first created on 7 January 1953 / The medal was awarded in 1st and 2nd classes and reached its height of bestowals during the Vietnam War years / The medal was also one of the more commonly awarded medals to members of foreign militaries and was frequently bestowed to 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 / The medal 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ORRANGE

GEORGE E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

64TH ARMOR

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:

George Edward Orange honorably served with the United States Army / George Orange was assigned to the 64th Armor Division with the US Army Europe and US Army Pacific and served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, George Orange worked for more than 36 years at Dunlop Tire in Tonawanda, New York, holding various positions managing quality control / George Edward Orange later retired to Melbourne, Florida where he passed away on 18 January 2023 at the age of 75 years old

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

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



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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORSINI**

JOSEPH E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: LT. COL.

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 2006

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph E. Orsini honorably served in the United States Air Force as a Judge Advocate

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph E. Orsini passed away on 31 March 2023 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) is the legal arm of the United States Air Force / Officers serving in the JAG Corps are typically called judge advocates / They handle a wide variety of legal issues including international law, operations law, environmental law, and military and civilian personnel issue



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORTON, JR.**

KENNETH W.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address: 228 KELLER AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Kenneth William Orton, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Kenneth Orton was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / SGT Orton was Killed In Action on 26 April 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations on Khe Sanh Hill 861, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During the second half of April 1967, SGT Orton's Battalion moved its CP (Command Post) to northern Quang Tri Province and began to participate in Operation PRAIRIE IV / In the early morning hours of April 26 while in their defensive perimeter southwest of Hill 886 South, the Marines were hit with a barrage of NVA mortar and possible direct RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) Fire / Supporting arms were requested on the suspected enemy positions / After the attack, the Marines proceeded on their mission, and made contact with enemy engaging them in fire fights several times during the day during the search in the mountains of Huong Hoa District / Towards evening, Company B linked up with Company K, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines northeast of Hill 861 South and were moving toward their night perimeters, when a barrage of NVA mortar fire hit the Marines / During the days confrontations with the enemy nine men of Company B were killed in action, three by enemy mortar fire and several were wounded / SGT Kenneth Orton was one of the casualties, he was killed in action from hostile rifle fire.

SGT Kenneth Orton signed his first four-year enlistment in the U. S. Marine Corps on 30 July 1959 in Buffalo, NY and re-enlisted on 30 July 1963 in Kittery, Maine, serving in the Marine Corps for seven-and-a-half years



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Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Orton was a 1959 graduate of Kenmore West High School / Kenneth William Orton, Jr. was 26 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Maple Grove Cemetery in Concord, New Hampshire

Kenneth William Orton, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18e, Line 96

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 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

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



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January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OSHIER, SR.

LOUIS J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Louis J. Oshier, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / Louis Oshier was deployed to Vietnam for two tours and one tour in Berlin, Germany

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Louis Oshier retired as the Director of Law Enforcement Communications at Erie County Central Police Services / Louis J. Oshier, Sr. passed away on 28 December 2022 at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: OSOSKI
PAUL

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Paul Ososki honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Ososki was the Owner and Pharmacist of Horowitz Pharmacy / Paul Ososki passed away on 20 January 2026 at the age of 89 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OSTROZNY**
NORBERT

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Norbert Ostrozny honorably served in the United States Military / Norbert Ostrozny was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OWCZARCZAK**

MELVIN J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 75 CIRCLE END DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2LT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 321ST ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Second Lieutenant Melvin Joseph Owczarczak honorably served in the United States Army / 2nd LT Melvin Owczarczak was deployed to Vietnam on 20 June 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 2LT Owczarczak was Killed in Action on 1 September 1968 from a booby trap set by the enemy in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

2nd LT Owczarczak was wounded during combat operations along the coastal plain between the City of Hue and Vin Loc Island on the South China Sea / He was evacuated to a Navy hospital ship, "Repose", but the injury was fatal and 2LT Owczarczak died of his wounds

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak received his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1967 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and completed artillery training at Ft Sill Oklahoma in the Spring of 1968

LT Owczarczak had served in Vietnam less than three months and was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

Base Assignments:

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania - A U.S. Army post primarily located in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania and served as a National Guard Training Center / During the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the Vietnam War, Fort Indiantown Gap served as one of the largest Reserve Officers Training Corps summer camps for the U.S.



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Army

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

Miscellaneous:

Melvin Owczarczak was a 1961 graduate of St. Francis High School and graduated in 1967 from St. Bonaventure University with a degree in Mathematics / Owczarczak also operated a radio station on the St. Bonaventure campus / Melvin Joseph Owczarczak was 25 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 45w, Line 19

The Field Artillery Unit Commander is a position in the U.S. Army that plans, coordinates, and directs field artillery activities / The Field Artillery branch traces its origins to 1775 when the Continental Congress elected Henry Knox as "Colonel of the Regiment of Artillery" / The Field Artillery officers serve in various Army formations and have diverse assignment opportunities

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 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army and trained for air assault operations / it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" and is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / During World War II, the 101st was renowned 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, perhaps most famously, 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

The 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (1-321st FAR) is an inactive field artillery battalion of the United States Army / The battalion served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror with the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions, and with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade / 1st Battalion, 321st



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Artillery (1-321) deployed to Vietnam attached to the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from 12 – 17 December 1967 / the battalion supported Operations Manchester, San Angelo and Atalla / From 10–11 January 1968, the battalion fired 1,935 rounds in support of a 25th Infantry Division fire support base, resulting in a large number of enemy killed / During its first two months in Vietnam, the battalion fired 19,150 rounds / On 22 November 1969, four howitzers from Battery A, accompanied by three howitzers from Battery B, 2-11 Arty, moved to FSB Bradley for a raid / The Battery A element fired 514 rounds against 65 targets before returning to LZ Sally / The raid destroyed 17 bunkers, six huts, three fighting positions and two bridges; caused two secondary fires; and interdicted five infiltration routes / Battery A returned to LZ Sally on 10 January 1970 and moved again to FSB Strike on 12 January 1970 and remained there until 25 January 1970 / The battalion was officially inactivated in March 2014, and its firing batteries were distributed throughout the 82nd Airborne Division

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OZIMEK**

RONALD R.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Ronald Robert Ozimek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Ronald Ozimek was deployed to Vietnam on 15 March 1969 as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / PFC Ronald Ozimek was Killed In Action on 10 August 1969 from hostile mortar fire at the Marine NDP (night defensive position) NW of LZ (landing zone) Sierra on DMZ, Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

At approximately 0600H on 10 August 1969, while the 1st Platoon was in a night defensive position, an NVA Company assaulted the perimeter with mortar fire, automatic rifle fire and rocket propelled grenades / PFC Ronald Ozimek died in combat, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds to the head and body from mortar fire and hand grenades, at Muttters Ridge, Hill 484, about 16 kilometers north northwest of Ca Lu Airfield, while participating in Operation Idaho Canyon / PFC Ozimek had been in Vietnam for 4 months and 26 days

PFC Ronald Robert Ozimek was a member of the Second Battalion, Platoon 2024 at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina / Two other members of Platoon 2024 were KIA in Viet Nam: PFC Larry Edward Christie, Waddington, NY and LCPL Ralph Lee Taylor, Baltimore, MD

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD



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

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Ozimek graduated from Depew High School with the class of 1968 / Ozimek was a Woodworker for Tradition House in Depew / Ronald Ozimek enlisted in the Marines 9 September 1968, at a Buffalo Recruiting Office / Ronald Robert Ozimek was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Augustine Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Ronald Robert Ozimek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 20w, Line 125

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

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

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 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



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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

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



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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OZIMEK, JR.**

JOSEPH

F.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Joseph F. Ozimek, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C Joseph Ozimek was a Communications Specialist, stationed in Torrejon Air Base, Spain

The brother of A1C Ozimek, Private First-Class Ronald Robert Ozimek, was Killed In Action on 10 August 1969 from hostile mortar fire at the Marine NDP (night defensive position) NW of LZ (landing zone) Sierra on DMZ, Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Torrejon Air Base, Spain – Torrejon AB is both a major Spanish Air and Space Force base and the co-located Madrid–Torrejon Airport, a secondary civilian airport for the city and metropolitan area of Madrid / Torrejon Air Base was originally the home of the Spanish National Institute Aeronautics / USAF support activities began under the 7600th Air Base Group located in Madrid in July 1956, to support construction and base organizational functions / Torrejon Air Base opened officially on 1 June 1957 with SAC activating the 3970th Strategic Wing on 1 July 1957 / The base hosted the Sixteenth Air Force as well as SAC's 65th Air Division (Defense) where it cooperated with Spanish Air Force units in the Air Defense Direction Centers (ADDC) / As a result of the withdrawal of USAF forces in South Vietnam, on 15 July 1971 the 307th and 353rd TFS were returned to their home bases, and the 612th and 614th TFSs were assigned to Torrejon / On 28 June, the 613th TFS was inactivated and its aircraft sent to Air National Guard squadrons in the United States / The 612th TFS inactivated on 1 October and the 614th TFS on 1 January 1992 / In accordance with the 1988 agreement, the USAF portion of the base was turned over to the Spanish government on 21 May 1992, with the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing being transferred to Aviano Air Base, Italy without personnel or equipment

Miscellaneous:

A Communications Specialist supervises, installs, operates and performs maintenance checks and services on



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manual or automated tactical multichannel communications equipment



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OZOLINS
BERNARD**

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CAPTAIN

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

3RD ENGINEERING BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Bernard Ozolins honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Captain Ozolins was deployed to Vietnam for 10 months and assigned as the Motor Transport officer / Captain Ozolins served with the Marine Corps for 5 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Born in Liepaia, Latvia, Bernard Ozolins attended college and later joined the United States Marine Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant on 21 March 1961 / Bernard Ozolins received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corp on 1 January 1967 / Bernard Ozolins passed away on 30 April 2018 at the age of 79 years old

The Motor Transport Officer plans, coordinates, executes and supervises the execution of all functions of motor transport / Motor Transport Officers analyze, translate, and execute commander's operational requirements and intent to support mission requirements at the battalion, squadron, regiment, Major Subordinate Command (MSC), Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) and Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) levels / As a motor transport subject matter expert, Motor Transport Officers are responsible for: planning, executing and monitoring tactical wheeled vehicle movements; planning and forecasting of equipment readiness and availability; monitoring and managing motor transport maintenance requirements; advising commanders on motor transport maintenance and operations requirements; management of individual and collective motor transport training; and management of motor transport licensing programs



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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

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