



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PACE

EDWARD T.

**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:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Edward Thomas "Buddy" Pace honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Edward Pace was employed with General Motors Tonawanda plant until his retirement / Pace was involved with several Vietnam Organizations / Edward Thomas "Buddy" Pace passed away on 20 February 2024 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PACHOLCZAK

DAVID L.

*Hometown:*

*Address:*

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

*Service Branch:* NAVY

*Rank:*

*Year Entered:*

*Year Discharged:*

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

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

*Service Notes:*

David L. Pacholczak honorably served in the United States Navy

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

David L. Pacholczak passed away on 19 January 2026 at the age of 75 years old

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PACHOLCZAK, SR.

RONALD J.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP5

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Ronald J. Pacholczak, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Ronald Pacholczak was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry during combat action and also was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor under enemy fire

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald J. Pacholczak, Sr. passed away on 7 April 2018 at the age of 70 years old and is interred at the Bath National Cemetery, Bath New York

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

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



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

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:** PACHOLSKI

JEROME J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Jerome J. Pacholski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PACHULSKI

JAMES F.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS  
1ST BATTALION, 44TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 BRONZE SERVICE STARS	REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE	ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)	NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS MEDAL
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL	

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 4th Class James F. Pachulski honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 James Pachulski was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months as a Radio Operator / Pachulski was assigned to the US Military Assistance Command - Vietnam (MAC-V) where he distinguished himself by meritorious service with the 1st Battalion, 44th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division

James F. Pachulski was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 17 January 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James F. Pachulski passed away on 1 July 2022 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

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



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/ However, in the larger communication units, the radioman will be with other radiomen and fellow communicators

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

U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense / MACV was created on 8 February 1962, in response to the increase in United States military assistance to South Vietnam / MACV was first implemented to assist the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Vietnam, controlling every advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam, but was reorganized on 15 May 1964 and absorbed MAAG Vietnam to its command when combat unit deployment became too large for advisory group control / In April 1966, all Army communications-electronics resources in South Vietnam were combined in a single formation, the 1st Signal Brigade which supported the combat signal battalions of the divisions and field forces in each corps area

The 23rd Infantry Division, known as the "Americal Division," was the only U.S. Army division formed outside the United States, activated on 27 May 1942 in New Caledonia / It played a significant role during World War II and was involved in the Vietnam War / The division is recognized for its contributions to infantry tactics and logistics, and it was nicknamed "Ever Ready"

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



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The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PADDEN, JR.**

**EDWARD T.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "C", 3RD BATTALION, 2ND BRIGADE ARMY TECHNICAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (M-16 RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Edward T. Padden, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army as a Indirect Fire Infantryman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward T. Padden, Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

A Indirect Fire Infantryman, is a member of a mortar squad, section or platoon / The mortar is an infantry unit's most powerful weapon

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

The Air Medal is awarded to anyone who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Armed Forces of the United States, and has distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

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

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

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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:** PAGE

JOHN G.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:** 157 MANG AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, 93RD MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, 16TH MP GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class John George "Jack" Page honorably served in the United States Army / PFC John Page was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1969 as an Aircraft Maintenance Crewman / PFC John Page died on 12 September 1970 at the 67th Evacuation Hospital at Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam after a five-day illness / The cause of death reportedly was viral meningoencephalitis

**Base Assignments:**

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

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance



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airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

## *Miscellaneous:*

John Page was a 1967 graduate of Kenmore West Senior High School / Page enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 1969 while a student at Buffalo State University College / John George "Jack" Page was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

John George Page is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 07w, Line 59

An Aircraft Maintenance Crewman prepares studies, evaluations, special reports, and records pertaining to aircraft maintenance, component repair, and related activities / Plans aircraft maintenance areas, components repair shops, and facilities / Applies production control, quality control, and other maintenance management principles and procedures to aircraft maintenance and shop operations

The 18th Military Police Brigade was activated at Fort Meade, Maryland on 20 May 1966 / During the Vietnam War, the Brigade was comprised of the following Battalions: the 92nd, 93rd, 95th, 97th, 504th, 716 and 720th / Members of the HHC deployed to Vung Tau, republic of Vietnam on 7 September 1966, and on 26 September 1966 / The mission of the 18th Military Police Brigade during the Vietnam War was to provide military police support in the Republic of Vietnam / This included a range of responsibilities such as maintaining order, enforcing regulations, conducting patrols, and ensuring the safety and security of military personnel and facilities / The Brigade assumed operational control over all non-division military police units in the region, contributing significantly to the overall mission of maintaining stability and security during a challenging period of conflict

The 93d (or 93rd) Military Police Battalion of the United States Army was formed in June 1945 and has operated in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Gulf War, and the Iraq War / The 93d Military Police Battalion deploys worldwide to conduct Military Police operations, and conducts continuous law and order operations in support of the Fort Bliss military community / The 93d MP BN was reactivated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on 1 June 1966 and deployed to South East Asia

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAGE

WILLIE L.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, 2ND SQUADRON, 11TH CAVALRY, G TROOP

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/V DEVICE

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Willie Lee Page honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Willie Page was deployed to Vietnam as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SP4 Willie Page was Killed In Action on 6 June 1967 when as a passenger in an armored personnel carrier, his vehicle hit a hostile mine while on combat operation in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam

Specialist Fourth-Class Willie Page was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service while engaged with enemy combatants and awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Willie Page attended Burgard High School / Willie Lee Page was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Edgemont Cemetery, Anniston, Alabama

Willie Lee Page is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21e, Line 63

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information



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related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment ("Blackhorse Regiment") is a unit of the United States Army garrisoned at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in California / The regiment has served in the Philippine–American War, the Pancho Villa Expedition, World War II, the Vietnam War, Gulf War and Iraq War / With the war in South Vietnam escalating, the Blackhorse Regiment was alerted for assignment to Southeast Asia on 11 March 1966 / The Blackhorse Regiment arrived in Vung Tau, South Vietnam on 7 September 1966 / The 11th Armored Cavalry participated in: Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, Operation Kittyhawk, Operation Alcorn Cove, the Tet Offensive and many others / The Tet Offensive of 1968 gave the squadron a chance to fight the enemy's troop formations in open combat / In Bien Hoa, the 3rd Squadron drove the enemy forces from the area near III Corps headquarters / Its action was crucial in smashing the enemy's offensive / The 11th withdrew from Vietnam in 1972

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAJAK

RICHARD F.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-1

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Richard F. Pajak honorably served with the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Pajak was a member of AMVETS Post #72 / Richard F. Pajak passed away on 18 October 2020



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PALMER

WILLIAM

W.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1962

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

William W. Palmer honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Palmer graduated from Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Palmer began his career with the Erie County Department of Social Services / Palmer was a 1969 graduate of the Social Work program at SUNY at Buffalo / After his retirement from the County of Erie, William Palmer worked for ADESA Buffalo Auto Auction and served as a Eucharistic Minister at his church / William W. Palmer passed away on 7 February 2024 at the age of 86 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PALMER, JR.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

ROBERT L.

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Robert L. Palmer, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Palmer graduated from Bennett High School in Buffalo in 1961 / Palmer graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Masters Degree in College Student Personnel Administration in 1972 and a Doctorate in Higher Education in 1979 / Robert Palmer also received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1972 from Indiana University / Palmer studied at Harvard's Institute for Educational Management / Robert Palmer had a 20 year career at the University of Buffalo, rising to the position of Vice President of Student Affairs / In August of 1979, Palmer moved to Indio, California joining the California State University, Fullerton as the Vice President of Student Affairs / Robert Palmer was awarded the Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean/Vice President from NASPA-Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education, Region VI / Robert L. Palmer, Jr. PhD passed away on 29 January 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PALUCH**

**STEPHEN**

**D.**

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Stephen D. Paluch honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Paluch was a member of the Knights of St. John Commandery #391; Knights of Columbus Father Baker Council #2243; and the Wacky Wednesday Social Club / Paluch was a member of American Legion Post #527 / Stephen D. Paluch passed away on 23 December 2024 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery in the Field of Valor, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PALUMBO**

**ANTHONY P.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 241 GOLD STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 47TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Anthony Paul Palumbo honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Anthony Palumbo was deployed to Vietnam on 6 September 1967 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / SP4 Anthony Palumbo was Killed In Action on 12 May 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in enemy combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

In May 1968, the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry was involved in a fight at the Y-Bridge in the Cholon District of Saigon / On May 12th, two recent transfers to 2/47 were killed in a friendly fire incident / SP4 Anthony P. Palumbo and PFC Philip M. Wooten were killed by a short artillery round that hit just as the company was preparing to assault a Viet Cong position in Saigon / The artillery was supposed to stop, and as the members of the company came out of cover, a round landed among the 10 men / Two were killed (Palumbo and Wooten), and seven were wounded

**Base Assignments:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

## *Miscellaneous:*

Anthony Palumbo joined the U.S. Army on 1 March 1967 / Anthony Paul Palumbo was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Anthony Paul Palumbo is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 59e, Line 10

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

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

The 47th Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / Constituted in 1917 at Camp Syracuse, New York, the regiment fought in the Great War, and was later inactivated in 1921 / Reactivated in 1940, the regiment fought during World War II in North Africa, Sicily, and Western Europe, then was inactivated in 1946 / During the Cold War, the regiment saw multiple activations and inactivation's, with service both in the Regular Army and the Army Reserve; it fought in Vietnam / In Vietnam, the regiment fought in the Mekong Delta, where it conducted riverine warfare / Along with other units assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, the regiment was based out of Dong Tam Base Camp / During the conflict, three of the regiment's battalions served; the 2d Battalion was deployed from January 1967 until October 1970, the 3d Battalion was deployed from January 1967 until July 1969, and the 4th Battalion was deployed January 1967 until July 1969 / For the most part the regiment's battalions were assigned to the 9th Infantry Division's 2d Brigade, except for the 2d Battalion, which was temporarily assigned at various times in 1968 to the division's other two brigades / During its time in Vietnam, the regiment conducted joint operations with the United States Navy, during which its soldiers deployed from, and billeted aboard, naval vessels / Following the regiment's deployment to Vietnam, its battalions were progressively inactivated / The 3d Battalion was the first to be inactivated, doing so at Fort Riley in August 1969; this was followed by the 2d Battalion, which was inactivated at Fort Lewis in October 1970, and the 1st Battalion in November 1972



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PALYSZESKI**

**ROBERT E.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert Earl Palyszeski honorably served in the United States Army / Robert Palyszeski was stationed in Camp Pieri, Wiesbaden, Germany working with the Guided Missile Electronic Guidance System

**Base Assignments:**

Camp Pieri was a former U.S. Army base until the mid 1990's / Camp Pieri was located in a suburb of Wiesbaden, Germany

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Palyszeski worked for Bethlehem Steel Corporation / Palyszeski earned his Associate's Degree in Accounting / Robert Earl Palyszeski passed away in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on 28 March 2025 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PANASIEWICZ

LARRY

B.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Larry B. Panasiewicz honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Larry Panasiewicz was a retired NYS Corrections Officer / Larry B. Panasiewicz passed away on 10 February 2026



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PANKOW**  
**WALTER**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Walter Pankow honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Walter Pankow was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Walter Pankow passed away on 25 March 2023 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PANZICA  
RONALD

**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:**

Ronald Panzica honorably served in the United States Military / Ronald Panzica was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PAOLETTI**

**ANTHONY N.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

278TH SIGNAL COMPANY (SPT)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (SP-4) Anthony Nino Paoletti honorably served in the United States Army as a Radio Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Anthony N. Paoletti was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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

The 278th Signal Company was constituted 12 February 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 1308th Signal Pigeon Company / Disbanded 29 February 1944 at Gulfport, Mississippi / Activated 28 April 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 1308th Signal Pigeon Company / Redesignated 26 October 1944 as the 278th Signal Pigeon Company / Inactivated 30 October 1945 in Germany / Redesignated 25 June 1964 as the 278th Signal Company, allotted to the Regular Army, and activated at Fort Lewis, Washington / Inactivated 1 September 1970 in Vietnam / The 278th Signal Company received three Meritorious Unit Commendations in



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## Vietnam

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PARADISO**  
**ERNEST**

**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:**

Ernest Paradiso honorably served in the United States Military / Ernest Paradiso was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PARK**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Park honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Robert Park went to work for Quebecor where he retired after 43 years / Robert J. Park passed away on 14 October 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PARKER**

**ALVIN**

**M.**

*Hometown:*

*Address:*

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

*Service Branch:* MARINE CORPS

*Rank:* CPL

*Year Entered:* 1960

*Year Discharged:* 1964

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

*Service Notes:*

Corporal Alvin M. Parker honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Alvin Parker was assigned as a Motor Vehicle Operator and had 13 months of foreign service at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Alvin M. Parker is the very proud direct descendent of Union Army Lt. Col. Ely Samuel Parker, a Tonawanda Seneca from Pembroke, New York / Lt. Col. Parker became prominent as a lawyer, engineer, diplomat and one of the top aides to General Ulysses S. Grant, and he drafted the terms of surrender and was present when Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the Civil War

CPL Alvin Parker was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 4 September 1964

*Base Assignments:*

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

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan - Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni or MCAS Iwakuni is a joint Japan



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Maritime Self-Defense Forces and United States Marine Corps air station located in the Nishiki river delta, 1.5 mi southeast of Iwakuni Station in the city of Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan / The Japanese government commissioned the base on 8 July 1940 / When World War II started, the Iwakuni Air Station was used as a training and defense base / The first allies to reach Iwakuni at the war's end were a group of U.S. Marines who had signed papers ending the conflict for the Japanese air base / After the end of World War II, various military forces from the United States, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand occupied the base / The Americans first occupied the base in 1950 to use it as a springboard for aircraft heading to the Korean War / In 1952, Air Station Iwakuni officially became a United States military base / It is currently home to around 10,000 United States Marines, sailors, and family members / The base is detailed for Marine pilot training and air patrol

## *Miscellaneous:*

Alvin Parker was an enrolled member of the Tonawanda Band of Senecas / Parker graduated from Burgard High School and Buffalo State College / Al Parker was employed at General Motors for most of his life as a Training Specialist / After retiring, Parker taught cultural studies at School 19 and had numerous speaking engagements with history enthusiasts throughout New York State / He was the first Native American inducted into Leadership Buffalo / Alvin Parker was an ardent supporter of the Buffalo Historical Society, and sat on the board at the Old Fort/Niagara Association / Parker was highly passionate about participating in Civil War and French and Indian War reenactments at Forest Lawn cemetery, Hull House, Old Fort Niagara, and Appomattox Court House because he could preserve the stories of the past and the legacy of his ancestors Ely S. Parker and Red Jacket / Alvin M. "Al" Parker passed away on 21 August 2022 at the age of 80 years old

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PASINSKI

ROBERT J.

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Pasinski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Pasinski was the owner of the Jovial Bar II, in Angola for over 50 years / Robert J. Pasinski passed away on 31 May 2024 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PATERNOSTRO  
NICHOLAS**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Nicholas Paternostro honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Nicholas Paternostro was employed by the Xerox Corporation in Amherst, retiring as a Service manager after 35 years of employment / Nicholas Paternostro passed away on 8 July 2024 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PATES, SR.  
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 Pates, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Pates was a retired Ironworker / John Pates, Sr. passed away on 15 December 2025 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PATTERSON**

**GERALD E.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

U.S. MEDICAL CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Gerald E. "Jerry" Patterson honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Gerald Patterson served in the Army Medical Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Patterson was an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts / Patterson graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 1962 and was a member of the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) / Dr. Gerald Patterson served 33 years as a respected OB/GYN with Aurora Medical Group / Dr. Patterson served as the School Board President for the East Aurora School District, as a CCD instructor at Immaculate Conception Church, and as an Associate Clinical Professor of OB/GYN / Dr. Gerald E. "Jerry" Patterson passed away in November 2025 at the age of 88 years old

The Medical Corps (MC) of the U.S. Army is a staff corps (non-combat specialty branch) of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) consisting of commissioned medical officers – physicians with either an M.D. or a D.O. degree, at least one year of post-graduate clinical training, and a state medical license / The MC traces its earliest origins to the first physicians recruited by the Medical Department of the Army, created by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 / The US Congress made official the designation "Medical Corps" in 1908, although the term had long been in use informally among the Medical Department's regular physicians / Currently, the MC consists of over 4,400 active duty physicians representing all the specialties and subspecialties of civilian medicine / They may be assigned to fixed military medical facilities, to deployable combat units or to military medical research and development duties / They are considered fully deployable soldiers / The Chief of the Medical Corps Branch (under the Army's Human Resources Command) is a colonel and the senior-most Medical



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Corps officer in the Army is the U.S. Army Surgeon General, a lieutenant general



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PATTERSON

GERALD E.

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

U. S. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Captain Gerald Earle Patterson honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Gerald Patterson served in the U. S. Army Medical Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Patterson graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in 1962 / Patterson served as the School Board President for the East Aurora School District, as a CCD instructor at Immaculate Conception Church, and as an Associate Clinical Professor of OB/GYN / Dr. Patterson served 33 years as a respected OB/GYN with Aurora Medical Group / Gerald Earle Patterson, M.D. passed away on 3 November 2025 at the age of 88 years old

The Medical Corps (MC) of the U.S. Army is a staff corps (non-combat specialty branch) of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) consisting of commissioned medical officers – physicians with either an M.D. or a D.O. degree, at least one year of post-graduate clinical training, and a state medical license / The MC traces its earliest origins to the first physicians recruited by the Medical Department of the Army, created by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 / The US Congress made official the designation "Medical Corps" in 1908, although the term had long been in use informally among the Medical Department's regular physicians / Currently, the MC consists of over 4,400 active duty physicians representing all the specialties and subspecialties of civilian medicine / They may be assigned to fixed military medical facilities, to deployable combat units or to military medical research and development duties / They are considered fully deployable soldiers / The Chief of the Medical Corps Branch (under the Army's Human Resources Command) is a colonel and the senior-most Medical Corps officer in the Army is the U.S. Army Surgeon General, a lieutenant general



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PATTERSON

STEPHEN

W.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CDR

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Commander Stephen W. Patterson honorably served in the United States Navy / CDR Stephen Patterson retired after 20 years as Commander and pilot

Commander Stephen Patterson also served during World War II and was deployed to Korea during the Korean War

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Patterson worked 30 years with General Motors, retiring as Superintendent from Tonawanda Engine / Stephen W. Patterson passed away on 13 December 2013 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAUL

DENNIS K.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**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:**

Corporal Dennis Paul honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Dennis Paul was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PAULINO**

**CARL**

**A.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:** 9159 MAIN STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Carl Arthur Paulino honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Carl Paulino was deployed to Vietnam on 1 May 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Carl Paulino was Killed In Action on 18 June 1968 from a hostile explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 18 June 1968, two squads of Marines enroute to their ambush positions in the vicinity of Khuong My village in the Dien Ban District had six Chicom grenades thrown at them from a hidden enemy / The explosions from the hostile devices killed PFC Carl Paulino and wounded seven additional men of the patrol including their USN Corpsman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carl Paulino was born in Middlebury, Vermont / Paulino enlisted in the US Marine Corps on 15 November 1967 in Buffalo / Carl Arthur Paulino was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Carl Arthur Paulino is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 56w, Line 26



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAULY

GARY

M.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth Class (SP4) Gary M. Pauly honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Gary Pauly was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and was stationed in Dongducheon, Korea, 5 miles south from Panmunjom, DMZ, site of the signing of the Korean War Armistice

**Base Assignments:**

Camp Casey - Dongducheon, Korea - Camp Casey was named in 1952 after Major Hugh Boyd Casey, who was killed in a plane crash near the camp site during the Korean War / Camp Casey is one of several U.S. Army bases in South Korea near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / Camp Casey was home to several of the main combat units of the Second Infantry Division / Among them were the Second Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment, the First Battalion of the 72nd Armored Regiment (Crusaders), and the 210th Field Artillery Brigade / Camp Casey is occupied by over 6,300 military personnel and more than 2,500 civilians

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Gary M. Pauly returned to West Seneca where he attended Niagara University / Pauly graduated from the university in 1978 with a degree in social welfare / In 1979, Pauly joined the West Seneca Police Department, serving in the Family Offences and Domestic Violence Bureau / In January 2015, Gary Pauly retired from the West Seneca Police Department after 35 years of service / After his retirement, Pauly served as a West Seneca Court Security Officer / Gary Pauly is a member of American Legion Post #735

The 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) ("Indianhead") is a formation of the United States Army / Since the 1960's, its primary mission has been the pre-emptive defense of South Korea in the event of an invasion from North Korea / Approximately 17,000 soldiers serve in the 2nd Infantry Division, with 10,000 stationed in South Korea,



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

accounting for about 35% of the United States Forces Korea personnel / Known as the 2nd Infantry Division-ROK/U.S. Combined Division (2ID/RUCD), the division is bolstered by rotational Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) from other U.S. Army divisions / The 2nd Infantry Division is unique as the only U.S. Army division to incorporate South Korean soldiers through the KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army) program, which began in 1950 with the agreement of South Korean President Syngman Rhee / By the end of the Korean War, around 27,000 KATUSAs had served with U.S. forces / As of May 2006, roughly 1,100 KATUSA soldiers are assigned to 2ID / Between 1950 and 1954, over 4,748 Dutch soldiers also served with the division



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAVICICH

RAYMOND J

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Raymond J. Pavicich honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Raymond Pavicich was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond J. Pavicich passed away on 31 March 2016 at the age of 69 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAVLOVICH  
JOHN

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PAVONE**  
**ANTHONY**

**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:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAWLICK, JR.

HENRY J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 17 ALWIN PLACE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 611TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Henry John Pawlick, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC John Pawlick was deployed to Vietnam 4 September 1965 as an Ammunition Storage Specialist / PFC Henry Pawlick died on 7 November 1965 from non-hostile action in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

PFC Henry Pawlick died as a result of accidental drowning / Pawlick was caught in an undertow while swimming and drowned

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Henry Pawlick attended School 17 and School 39 / Pawlick was a 1962 graduate of Seneca Vocational School / Henry John Pawlick, Jr. was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Henry John Pawlick, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03e, Line 29

An Ammunition Specialist is responsible for the highly specialized care and management of ammunition, explosives, and their components / They perform stock control and accounting duties, and in charge of receiving, storing, issuing, and inspecting weapon systems to determine if they need repair or need to be destroyed / The



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Specialist is in charge of blowing up expired or partially used explosives and other ordnance in controlled settings, a crucial part of keeping troops safe

No unit was more critical to the buildup of American forces in Vietnam than the 1st Logistical Command / Prior to 1965, the U.S. Army in Vietnam was supplied by the Army's Pacific Command through the small U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, which served under the 9th Logistical Command in Okinawa / With the deployment of division-sized units, it quickly became apparent that the logistical effort required greater manpower and organization / As a result, the 1st Logistical Command, which had first been activated during the Korean War, was deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Saigon on 1 April 1965 / At that time, Vietnam possessed only two ports capable of supporting the ocean-going vessels that brought most American material to Vietnam: one in Da Nang that the U.S. Navy used to provide logistical support to the Marines in I Corps, the other in Saigon, which was needed to provide South Vietnam with most of its imported goods / USARV made the decision to build a major port at Cam Ranh Bay / Utilizing the DeLong pier, which operated by hydraulic lifting devices, Army engineers succeeded in completing the port at Cam Ranh / The development of the ports played a large role in determining the organization of the 1st Logistical Command / Separate U.S. Army Support Commands were established in Saigon, Cam Ranh, Qui Nhon, and, in 1968, when Army units began to serve in I Corps, in Da Nang / Each support command operated independently in maintaining a flow of needed goods to the combat zones / The 1st Log maintained overall control and supervision through the Logistical Operations Control Center located at its Saigon headquarters / The diversity of 1st Logistical Command activities was astounding / Under its command were truck units, boat companies, railroad facilities, and airlift and airdrop capabilities / Almost every piece of Army equipment sent to Vietnam was processed, transported, issued, and maintained by the 1st Logistical Command / Not only was the 1st Logistical Command responsible for providing the Army troops with the basic weapons of war, but it also clothed and fed them and supplied them with virtually every amenity available in Post Exchanges / The 1st Logistical Command was redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas on 7 December 1970 and after more than five years of distinguished service, two of its number had won the Medal of Honor, and thousands of others had maintained the distinction of seeing the American Army the best supplied and best equipped in the world

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAWLOWSKI

LOUIS J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** DARTWOOD DRIVE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1975

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE (H&S) COMPANY, 1ST INFANTRY TRAINING REGIMENT (ITR)

29TH RIFLE COMPANY, BUFFALO, NEW YORK

USS INCHON

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Louis J. Pawlowski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Louis Pawlowski was assigned as an Infantryman and underwent Desert Warfare Training / LCPL Louis Pawlowski served briefly aboard the USS Inchon for training

LCPL Louis Pawlowski also served in the Marine Reserve

LCPL Louis Pawlowski served on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserves

**Base Assignments:**

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



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Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

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

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), also known as 29 Palms, is the largest United States Marine Corps base / The base covers a total area of 1,102 square miles / From 1942 through July 1944, during World War II, the airfield at Twentynine Palms was utilized by the U.S. Army Air Force for primary flight training / On 20 August 1952, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Headquarters issued Post Order 343 creating the Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms / The base was designated on 6 February 1953, as Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms / By 1 February 1957, it grew to base status and was designated as Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California / On 16 February 1979, the base was changed once more to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) / On 1 October 2000, after 21 years as MCAGCC, the command was designated as Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twentynine Palms, California / The base is currently home to one of the largest military training areas in the nation / Twentynine Palms was to be a permanent 'combined-arms exercise college' for all of the Marine Corps

### *Miscellaneous:*

Louis Pawlowski graduated from South Park High School and attended Bryant & Stratton Business School and the University of New York at Buffalo / Pawlowski is a graduate of the Roberts Beauty School / Louis Pawlowski worked for Acme Steel as a Time Study Efficiency Expert / Pawlowski became a Barber-Hair Stylist and was an instructor at the Marjon Beauty School / Louis Pawlowski is the owner of the Shear Artistry Salon in Cheektowaga, New York / Louis Pawlowski is a member of Moose Lodge #959 and a member and 1st Vice-Commander of American Legion Post #735 / Pawlowski is also a member of the American Legion #735 Color Guard

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

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three



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major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II / The division was involved in the Tet Offensive of 1968, securing the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, the division conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional Operation Atlas Wedge / The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien ("Progress Together") operations / These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat / The division officially departed South Vietnam on 7 April 1970 / During its involvement in the Vietnam War, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners of war / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor

USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12) was an Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship of the United States Navy in service from 1970 to 2002 / Commissioned on 20 June 1970, she was named for the Battle of Inchon, a turning point of the Korean War / In 1972–1973, the USS Inchon circumnavigated the globe and returned to Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia / In February 1973, Inchon was attached to Task Force 78 for Operation End Sweep, the U.S. Navy's effort to clear U.S. mines from North Vietnamese waters after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords / Following a major fire, she was laid up and sunk as a target in 2004

The Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES or MFR), also known as the United States Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR) and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, is the reserve force of the United States Marine Corps / The Marine Corps Reserve is an expeditionary, warfighting organization and primarily designed to augment and reinforce the active duty units of the Marine Corps in their expeditionary role / It is the largest command, by assigned personnel, in the U.S. Marine Corps / Marines in the Reserve go through the same training and work in the same Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) as their active-duty counterparts / The United States Marine Corps Reserve was established when Congress passed the Naval Appropriations Act of 29 August 1916, and is responsible for providing trained units and qualified individuals to be mobilized for active duty in time of war, national emergency, or contingency operations / Reserve Marines are ready to supplement the active-duty troops when needed

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

**Name:** PAWLOWSKI JR.

CHESTER

F.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Chester F. Pawlowski Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Chester Pawlowski retired from the Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Chester Pawlowski was a member of St. Martha Holy Name Society / Chester F. Pawlowski Jr. passed away on 16 December 2025 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Stanislaus Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAWLOWSKI, JR.

JOSEPH

P.

**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:**

Joseph Paul Pawlowski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Pawlowski was a retiree of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation / Joseph Paul Pawlowski, Jr. passed away on 3 April 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAWLOWSKI, JR.

THEODORE J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 523 LASALLE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 46TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Theodore Joseph Pawlowski , Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Theodore Pawlowski was deployed to Vietnam on 17 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Theodore Pawlowski was Killed In Action on 23 February 1969 as a result of enemy mortar fire in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 23 February 1969, the Base Camp at Landing Zone Baldy (Hill 63) in Quang Nam Province came under a hostile mortar barrage during which two men were killed by the deadly shrapnel / One of the casualties was PFC Theodore J. Pawlowski , Jr.

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Theodore Pawlowski was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School / Prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army in June 1968, Pawlowski was an accountant for a paint supply firm / Theodore Joseph Pawlowski , Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Theodore Joseph Pawlowski , Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 18

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

The 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry (1/64) came in-country by ship on 4 October 1967 as part of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade / The 198th became part of the Americal Division / After one month of orientation at Duc Pho, the battalion was deployed north of Chu Lai and patrolled from Hill 54, Hill 69 and LZ Baldy in Quang Tin Province / In March of 1969, the battalion moved to Landing Zone (LZ) Professional, in the mountains southwest of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, to relieve a battered 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry of the 198th / In July of 1969, the battalion, which had been operating under operational control of the 196th Lightning Infantry Brigade (LIB) of the Americal, became a permanent member of that brigade / The battalion operated from LZ Professional until August of 1970 / In February of 1970, the battalion established a temporary firebase at LZ Mary Ann, at a remote mountain site near Hau Duc, Quang Tin Province / The battalion returned to Mary Ann in the summer of 1970 and operated from there and LZ Young, between Tien Phuoc and Tam Ky, during 1970 and 1971 / The battalion left Mary Ann in April of 1971 when the Americal Division was deactivated and the 196th Brigade reverted to its status as an independent brigade and deployed at Danang, to provide security for the port / The 1/46th left Vietnam in June, 1972 / 232 names on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., approximately half the battalion's actual field strength at any given time in Vietnam, were members of 1/46th, or died while deployed with the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

6 December 1941

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAX

JAMES H.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

James H. Pax honorably served in the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard / James Pax also served in the Naval Reserve

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Pax graduated from Buffalo State College and worked as a sales engineer for Armco Steel / James Pax was a Town Councilman for the Town of Grand Island from 1972 to 1991 / Pax was elected as the Supervisor, Town of Grand Island from 1992 to 1997 / James Pax was awarded the Citizen of the Year for Government in 1986 / Pax moved to Lockport, New York in 2001 / James H. Pax passed away on 14 February 2012 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Lockport, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAYNE

DAVID J.

**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:**

David J. Payne honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Payne was an operating engineer with Local 17, and an equipment operator with National Grid / Payne was a member of the National Ski Patrol for 44 years at Holiday Valley / David J. Payne passed away on 15 January 2026 at the age of 86 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAYNE

GARY

S.

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Gary S. Payne honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary S. Payne passed away on 18 September 2024 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Pembroke, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PAYNE

GARY E.

**Hometown:** ALDEN

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Gary E. Payne honorably served in the United States Army / Gary Payne was deployed to Vietnam in December of 1967 and returned home in January, 1968 / Payne was wounded in combat operations and was awarded the Purple Heart

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Payne entered the U.S. Army at the age of 18 years old / Gary E. Payne passed away on 2 May 2024 at the age of 75 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PEARSON

DAVID A.

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:** 227 WYNNWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** FN

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

USNAVFORV, TASK FORCE (TF) 117, RIVERINE SQUADRON (RIVRON) 9, A 91 4  
USS KITTYHAWK

**Medals / Citations:**

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Fireman David Allen Pearson honorably served in the United States Navy / FN David Pearson was deployed to Vietnam on 30 November 1967 as a Fireman / FN David Pearson was Killed In Action on 23 July 1968 as a result from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

On 23 July 1968, River Assault Division 91 units with 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry soldiers embarked were enroute to beaching areas on the Giong Trom Canal, eight miles southeast of Ben Tre, RVN, when they were ambushed on the Ben Tre Stream about six miles southeast of Ben Tre / The boats immediately turned toward the ambush positions, saturated the area with machine gun and cannon fire, and landed their infantrymen to counterattack the enemy and search the area / During the battle, the boat captain of Assault Support Patrol Boat 91-4, BM1 John F. Bobb, was killed when a rocket hit the coxswain's flat of his boat / In his last heroic act before he died, BM1 Bobb beached his boat to prevent it from hitting the other boats in the formation / The gradient where the boat was grounded was very steep, and the boat swamped and subsequently sunk / The ASPB was recovered the following day and returned for repairs / The 20mm gunner on the craft, FN David A. Pearson, was also killed when a 75mm recoilless-rifle round severely damaged his gun mount / Ten other sailors were wounded in the battle / A soldier from A Company, 3rd Battalion, PFC James H. Martin, drowned after being caught on the ramp of one of the troop carriers and pulled into the water while the craft was attempting to extract troops off the beach under fire



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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FN Pearson served two tours in Vietnam with River Assault Squadron Nine / The Navy Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to FN David Allen Pearson

FN David Pearson served onboard the USS Kittyhawk from March - September 1967

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

David Pearson attended Philip Sheridan Elementary School / Pearson graduated from Kenmore East Senior High School and enlisted in the Navy on 26 July 1966 / David Allen Pearson was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Cold Springs Cemetery, Lockport, New York

David Allen Pearson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 51w, Line 43

Naval Fireman stand power plant and ship security watches both while in port and underway / While performing watches, they will ensure all safety standards are being met with any associated engineering machinery / They are responsible for working with safety and fire suppression equipment / A Fireman preserves, maintains, and repairs the safety equipment and any other associated equipment to prepare for underway operations / In addition to performing maintenance on the equipment, they will also perform any emergency equipment repair

The Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), specifically Task Force 117, played a significant role during the Vietnam War / Mobile Riverine Force was a unique combined-arms unit that utilized both naval and ground forces to conduct operations in the complex riverine environment of Vietnam / It included river assault boats, monitors, and other specialized craft / The force played a crucial role in counterinsurgency efforts, patrolling waterways, and engaging enemy forces / USNAVFORV: This stands for United States Naval Forces, Vietnam / It was responsible for coordinating naval operations in the region during the war / TF 117: Task Force 117 was a joint force unit that operated in the Mekong Delta / It consisted of both U.S. Army and U.S. Navy elements / RIVRON 9: Riverine Squadron 9 was part of the Mobile Riverine Force / It included river assault boats and support vessels

USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), formerly CVA-63, was a United States Navy supercarrier. She was the second naval ship named after Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the site of the Wright brothers' first powered airplane flight. Kitty Hawk was the first of the three Kitty Hawk-class aircraft carriers to be commissioned and the last to be decommissioned / She was commissioned on 29 April 1961 and for ten years, Kitty Hawk was the forward-deployed carrier at Yokosuka Naval Base in Yokosuka, Japan / The Kitty Hawk was deployed to serve in the waters of Southeast Asia on 4 November 1966 / She remained in the Far East, supporting the U.S. in Southeast Asia until departing Subic Bay on 28 May 1968 / Kitty Hawk was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for exceptionally meritorious and heroic service from 23 December 1967 to 1 June 1968, which included the Tet Offensive, while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia, and the Navy Unit Meritorious Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service from 15 January 1969 to 27 August 1969 while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia and contingency operations in Northeast Asia. Both awards noted that the officers and men of the Kitty Hawk displayed undaunted spirit, courage, professionalism, and dedication to maintain their ship as a fighting unit under the most arduous operating conditions to enable her pilots to destroy



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vital military targets in North Vietnam despite intense opposition and extremely adverse weather conditions / The USS Kitty Hawk was decommissioned on 12 May 2009 and CV-63 on 29 April 1973 / The Kitty Hawk was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 20 October 2017, and was designated for disposal by dismantling after being towed and arriving in Brownsville, Texas on 31 May 2022

The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps (including foreign military personnel), distinguishes himself/herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service / To merit this award, the acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner above that normally expected and sufficient to distinguish the individual above those performing similar services as set forth in the following: Outstanding and worthy of special recognition, but not to the degree required for the Bronze Star Medal or Air Medal when combat is involved or the Meritorious Service Medal or Air Medal when combat is not involved / The achievement should be such as to constitute a definite contribution to the Naval Service, such as an invention, or improvement in design, procedure or organization / On 17 January 1991, the "V" (for valor) was authorized for wear on the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal / The "V" is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations.

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



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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PECK**

**GIFFORD**

**R.**

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:

Gifford R. Peck honorably served in the United States Army / Gifford Peck retired from the U.S. Army after 38 years of service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gifford Peck worked as a printer for Royal Printing in Buffalo / Peck was a lifelong member of Union Hook & Ladder in the City of Tonawanda, and a lifelong member of the Grand Island Volunteer Fire Company / Gifford R. Peck passed away on 16 January 2021 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PEMBLETON

CHARLES W.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Charles W. Pembleton honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Pembleton was a retired crane operator / Charles W. Pembleton passed away on 3 July 2022 at the age of 71 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PENDERGAST, JR.

WILLIAM P.

**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:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

William P. Pendergast, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Pendergast was a retired Correctional Officer at the Wende Correctional Facility / William P. Pendergast, Jr. passed away on 10 March 2022 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Memorial Park, Buffalo, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PENN

GERALD B.

**Hometown:** BOSTON

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Gerald Braden Penn honorably served in the United States Army / Specialist Gerald Penn was deployed to Vietnam / SP Penn was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in a combat zone

On 13 November 2023, the portion of Route 219 crossing over Shero Road in the Town of Boston, Erie County, was renamed and dedicated as the "Specialist Gerald B. Penn Memorial Bridge", honoring the military service of Vietnam War Veteran, Specialist Gerald Penn

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Penn was a retired Corrections Officer and a member of the Holy Name Society and American Legion Post #527 / Gerald Braden Penn passed away in Zephyrhills, Florida on 28 March 2017 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at SS. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PERKINS

JOHN

V.

**Hometown:** LAKEVIEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

MARINE CORPS COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL  
W/BRONZE STAR;

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION UNIT CITATION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant John V. "Jack" Perkins honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT John Perkins was assigned as a Rifleman and served 14 months of combat duty in Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division

John V. Perkins was Honorably Discharged from the US Marine Corps on 7 April 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John V. "Jack" Perkins passed away on 6 December 2021

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

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / The 1st Marine Division participated in combat duty during World War I, World War II and the Korean War / In August 1965, the division participated in Operation Starlite, the first major engagement against the Vietcong (VC) for American ground troops in South Vietnam / The 1st Marine Division fought in many key



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Town of West Seneca, New York

battles in Vietnam until 1971 when it was transferred back to Camp Pendleton / The 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action in South Vietnam / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of more than 19,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force / It is nicknamed "The Old Breed"

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

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

The Combat 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 Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal also known as the Vietnam Civil Actions Medal or Civil Actions Medal, is a military decoration of the former South Vietnamese government (1955–75) / The medal was created on May 12, 1964 during the Vietnam War / The Civil Actions Medal was awarded to the South Vietnamese military and its allies' military personnel or units that performed outstanding achievements in the field of civil affairs / The medal was awarded in two classes, with the first-class intended for commissioned officers and the second class for enlisted personnel / Individuals who were cited received the medal, ribbon, and a citation

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level / Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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



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for the Marine Corps

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PERLINGER

DANIEL M.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE RIBBON W/4 BATTLE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance-Corporal Daniel M. Perlinger honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Daniel Perlinger was assigned as a Field Radio Operator during 12 months of deployment to Vietnam

Daniel Perlinger received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 6 February 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel M. Perlinger passed away on 17 April 2018 at the age of 69 years old

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PERRY

DONALD

B.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Donald B. Perry honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Perry was the owner of "Don's Spaghetti House" in East Aurora / Perry was a member of the East Aurora Kiwanis Club / Donald B. Perry passed away on 13 February 2025 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at the Bear Ridge Cemetery, Pendleton, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PETERS**

**JOHN A.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

John A. Peters honorably served in the United States Military / John Peters was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PETERSON

PHILIP R.

**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:**

Philip R. Peterson honorably served in the United States Army as a Medic Paratrooper in the Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army Philip Peterson became a Master of many building trades including carpentry / Philip R. Peterson passed away on 7 November 2023 at the age of 71 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PETERSON

WILLIAM J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

William J. Peterson honorably served in the United States Military

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Peterson was a member of the South Buffalo American Legion Post #721 / William J. Peterson passed away on 2 April 2026 at the age of 79 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PETRE**

**EDWARD C.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Edward C. Petre honorably served in the United States Army / Edward Petre was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone and received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat action

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Petre was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter #87, VA Vet Center, Donovan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #1626 and Fraternal Order of Eagles, Depew / Edward C. Petre passed away on 13 March 2026 at the age of 77 years old

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

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously / An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem



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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PETRI**

**RICHARD W.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First Class Richard W. Petri honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard W. Petri passed away on 15 February 2021 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Saint Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PETRUS**  
**RONALD**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PHELPS

DAVID H.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 517 CRESCENT AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, A COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Corporal David Harlow Phelps honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL David Phelps was deployed to Vietnam on 5 August 1968 as a Rifleman / CPL David Phelps was Killed In Action on 7 December 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During Operation MEADE RIVER under the operational control of the 1st Marines, Company A engaged a heavily armed NVA force in fortified positions in the vicinity of Ha Nong Tay / The battle raged throughout the day as the Marines tried to break through the enemy lines until darkness fell / The Marines dug in for the night recovering the bodies of their fallen comrades, among the thirteen men who were killed in the action was CPL David Phelps, who fell from hostile gunshot wounds

**Base Assignments:**

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



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

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East

### *Miscellaneous:*

David Phelps was a graduate of Bennett High School and School 54 / Phelps enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in November 1965 / David Harlow Phelps was 21 years old at the time of passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Harlow Phelps is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 37w, Line 58

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

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

The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (1/7) is an infantry battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment of the United States



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

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

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

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



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

The 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:** PHILLIPS

DAVID J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 52 ELMWOOD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 7TH SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, B TROOP

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant David Jeffery Phillips honorably served in the United States Army / SGT David Phillips was deployed to Vietnam on 16 July 1968 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SGT David Phillips was Killed In Action on 8 March 1969 when the helicopter that he was onboard, crashed after receiving enemy ground fire in Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

On 8 March 1969, a U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A (tail number 66-07823) from B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, operating in Binh Thuan Province (II Corps) was working a ridge line due west of Phan Thiet, when the aircraft was hit by hostile enemy small arms fire (AK-47) / Rounds hit the fuselage causing the helicopter to crash / Both the pilot, WO1 Walter A. Carpenter, and the observer, SGT David J. Phillips, suffered fatal injuries in the crash

Sergeant David Phillips was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

**Base Assignments:**

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



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Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

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

### *Miscellaneous:*

David Phillips attended Bennett High School before entering the U.S. Army on 1 April 1967 / David Jeffery Phillips was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Bemus Point Cemetery, Ellery Center, New York

David Jeffery Phillips is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 30w, Line 80

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

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

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June



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1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

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

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

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

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

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

The 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:** PHILLIPS

JAMES

F.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 90 HARLEM ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

88TH ARTILLERY GROUP (NIKE MISSILES)

1ST AIR CAVALRY

**Medals / Citations:**

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (VIETNAM)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (RESERVES)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class James F. Phillips honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 James Phillips was stationed with the 1st Air Cavalry at Camp Radcliff in the district of An Khê, South Vietnam / SP4 Phillips fought and survived a surprise attack on his base during the Tet Offensive / On January 1968, 84,000 communist soldiers of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam launched coordinated attacks against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States, and their allies / This, the largest battle of the Vietnam War, became known as the Tet Offensive

James Phillips joined the U. S. Army Reserve in 1980 and retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class in 2007

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Established in 1917 and named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Lewis was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States / Ft. Lewis was the home to the 4th Infantry Division until their departure for Vietnam in 1966, leaving the fort as a personnel transfer and training center / Fort Lewis was deactivated in 1991.

Ft. Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established on 16 July 1917 as Camp Dix, named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / Ft. Dix was used for the mobilization, training and demobilization of soldiers from World War I through April 2015 / On 1 October 2009, Fort Dix was consolidated



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with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Ft. Knox, Kentucky - Named after Henry Knox, the Continental Army's chief of artillery during the Revolutionary War and the country's first Secretary of War, Ft. Knox is located south of Louisville / Ft. Knox holds the Army human resources Center of Excellence (includes the Army Human Resources Command, United States Army Cadet Command and the United States Army Accessions Command / For 60 years, Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and the U.S. Army Armor School (moved to Fort Benning), and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the M1 Abrams main battle tank

Ft. Devens, Massachusetts - Located in the counties of Middlesex and Worcester, the fort was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / The 2nd Infantry Brigade was inactivated on 19 February 1963 at Fort Devens; in 1962 when it was reflagged as 2nd Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. It was reactivated on 23 October 1963 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and moved (with the rest of the Division) to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 1964 / Fort Devens was also the home of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1968 until the Group's move to Fort Carson, Colorado in 1995 / It was also the home of the 39th Engineer Battalion (CBT) until the 39th was deactivated in 1992 / Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

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

Nike Base (CD27), Wilmington, Ohio - Located between Dayton and Cincinnati, the site became operational in 1960 to defend the industrial centers of the upper Ohio River Valley / Nike, named for the mythical Greek goddess of victory, was the name given to a program that deployed a guided surface-to-air missile defense system / The base was closed in 1970 with the termination of the Nike Missile System

Camp Radcliff, South Vietnam - Camp Radcliff (also known as An Khê Army Airfield, An Khê Base or the Golfcourse) is a former U.S. Army base in the An Khê District in central Vietnam / Camp Radcliff was established in late August 1965 by the 70th Engineer Battalion as the base camp for the 1st Cavalry Division / The camp was named after Cavalry Major Donald Radcliff, the 1st Cavalry's first combat death, who was killed on 18 August 1965 while supporting U.S. Marines in his helicopter gunship during Operation Starlite

## *Miscellaneous:*

James Phillips graduated from West Seneca West High School in 1966 / After graduation, James worked at Costas Pizza Lounge as a pizza maker until he received his draft notification papers / James served in the Army from 1966 through 1970 / After his Honorable Discharge, James Phillips became a press operator for the F. N. Burt Company until 1983 / Between 1983 and 2008, James Phillips worked at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Wende Correctional Facility



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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, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / The division was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, and in the War in Afghanistan / When the 1st Cavalry Division was deployed in the Vietnam War, the division become an air assault division as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), commonly referred to as the 1st Air Cavalry Division / The use of helicopters on such large scale as troop carriers, cargo lift ships, medevacs, and as aerial rocket artillery, was never before implemented, but by doing so it freed the infantry from the tyranny of terrain to attack the enemy at the time and place of its choosing / Deployed to Camp Radcliff, An Khe, Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was equipped with the new M16 rifle, the UH-1 troop carrier helicopter, UH-1-C gunships, the CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter, and the massive CH-54 Skycrane cargo helicopter / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PHILLIPS

MICHAEL W.

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Michael W. Phillips honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Phillips worked as a Project Manager for the Ames Department Stores / Michael W. Phillips passed away on 13 January 2023 at the age of 71 years old and interred in St. Mark Lutheran Cemetery



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PICKEL, SR.**

**ROBERT**

**W.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert W. Pickel, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Pickel retired as the Senior Vice President of Finance for the Buffalo Sabres and moved to Florida / Pickel served as the President of the Board of Directors for Summer Bay Resorts in Orlando, Florida / Robert W. Pickel, Sr. passed away on 7 January 2021 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PIECZONKA**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PIELECHA**  
**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 Pielecha honorably served in the United States Military / Thomas Pielecha was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PIERCE**

**RONALD S.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:** 380 OAKVALE BOULEVARD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, D COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Ronald Shafer Pierce honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Ronald Pierce was deployed to Vietnam on 26 April 1969 as a Rifleman / PVT Ronald Pierce was Killed In Action on 7 May 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

When Ronald arrived in Vietnam on 26 April 1969, he was assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division / The battalion was participating in Operation Darling Rebel in the Barrier Island area centered 5 kilometers southeast of Hoi An, when Ronald was wounded by a hostile explosive device, at approximately 0030H and was med-evac to a Station Hospital in Danang, where he died at approximately 2330H, as a result of fragmentation wounds to the body

**Base Assignments:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

Ronald Pierce Ronald attended Benjamin Franklin Junior High, before dropping out and enlisting in the U.S. Marines Corps in March 1967 / Ronald Shafer Pierce was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Ronald Shafer Pierce is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 19

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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The Combat 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PIETROWSKI  
DAVID

**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:**

David Pietrowski honorably served in the United States Military / David Pietrowski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PIETRZAK

JULIAN J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Julian J. Pietrzak honorably served in the United States Navy and served on a Naval destroyer

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Julian Pietrzak was a member of United Auto Workers, Local #424 / Julian J. Pietrzak passed away on 29 May 2024 at the age of 75 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PIGNONE**  
**FRANK**

**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:**

Frank Pignone honorably served in the United States Military / Frank Pignone was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PIGOTT

EUGENE F.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Eugene F. Pigott honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Eugene Pigott was stationed in Vietnam serving as a Vietnamese Interpreter for the Second Civil Affairs Company in the Mekong Delta, attached to the Third Brigade of the Ninth Division

**Base Assignments:**

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

Ft. Bliss, Texas - Fort Bliss is a United States Army post in New Mexico and Texas, with its headquarters in El Paso, Texas / Named in honor of LTC William Bliss (1815–1853), a mathematics professor who was the son-in-law of President Zachary Taylor, Ft. Bliss has an area of about 1,700 square miles; it is the largest installation in FORSCOM (United States Army Forces Command) and second-largest in the Army overall (the largest being the adjacent White Sands Missile Range) / Fort Bliss is home to the 1st Armored Division, which returned to US soil in 2011 after 40 years in Germany / The division is supported by the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade / The installation is also home to Joint Task Force North (JTF), a joint service command / Fort Bliss trained thousands of U.S. Soldiers during the Cold War / As the United States gradually came to master the art of building and operating missiles, Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range became more and more important to the country, and were expanded accordingly

**Miscellaneous:**



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Eugene Pigott was drafted while in Law School / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Pigott resumed his law studies, eventually serving on the New York State Court of Appeals as an Associate Judge / Eugene Pigott retired in 2016 continuing as a mediator, assisting attorneys and clients in resolving cases with the Pigott Law Group

Interpreter/Translator is a military occupational specialty that tells soldiers how to translate language, interpret verbal statements, and give the whole meaning of passages

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PIKULA**

**MICHAEL S.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/OAK LEAF CLUSTER

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Michael S. Pikula honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Michael Pikula was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received on the battlefield and was awarded 2 Bronze Star Medals for heroics during combat action

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Pikula was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.) Weber Post, American Legion Post #567 and American Legion Post #273 / Michael S. Pikula passed away on 12 December 2020 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously / An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem

The 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 / An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PILARSKI**

**JOSEPH**

**R.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph R. Pilarski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Pilarski retired from the Tonawanda General Motors Plant / Joseph R. Pilarski passed away on 29 May 2025 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PILOZZI**

**RONALD J.**

**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:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Ronald J. Pilozzi honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald J. Pilozzi graduated from Bishop Gibbons High School and was a graduate of Canisius College / Pilozzi retired from General Motors after 30 years where he was a Quality Control Supervisor / Ronald Pilozzi also served the City of Tonawanda as both an Alderman and Mayor for 16 years / Ronald J. Pilozzi passed away at the age of 74 years old on 4 June 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PIONTEK**  
**EUGENE**

**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:**

Eugene Piontek honorably served in the United States Military / Eugene Piontek was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PITASS

BERNARD J.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

EUROPEAN OCCUPATION MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Bernard J. Pitass honorably served in the United States Army / Bernard Pitass served for 22 months on active duty with a 17 month tour of duty in Germany with the 3rd Infantry Division, 76th Artillery as a Field Artillery Intel Assistant

Bernard Pitass was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 6 December 1967 with reserve obligations completed 18 December 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Bernard Pitass was a State Trooper for New York State and a Zone Sergeant for Troop "T" as supervisor of state wide Thruway Operations until his retirement in 2003 / Bernard J. Pitass passed away on 7 January 2025 at the age of 78 Years old

The Army of Occupation Medal was a military award of the United States military which was established by the United States War Department on 5 April 1946 / The medal was created in the aftermath of the Second World War to recognize those who had performed occupation service in either Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan or Korea / The original Army of Occupation Medal was intended only for members of the United States Army, but was expanded in 1948 to encompass the United States Air Force shortly after that service's creation / The Navy and Marine equivalent of the Army of Occupation Medal is the Navy Occupation Service Medal, which features the same ribbon with its own medallion and clasps



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PITTNER, JR.**

**PETER J.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:** **LCPL**

**Year Entered:** **1968**

**Year Discharged:** **1970**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**COMPANY E, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH MARINE REGIMENT, 2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE**

**Medals / Citations:**

**VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR**

**VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL**

**COMBAT ACTION RIBBON**

**MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (M-14 RIFLE)**

**NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Peter J. Pittner, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Peter Pittner served 11 months of foreign service in South Vietnam as an Automobile Mechanic

LCPL Peter J. Pittner, Jr. was Honorably Discharged honorably from the U.S. Marine Corps on 10 March 1970

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter Pitner was the owner of "Pittner's Restaurant" located at 1263 Clinton St., Buffalo, New York for over 30 years / Peter J. Pittner, Jr. passed away on 17 July 2022 at the age of 73 years old

2nd Battalion, 8th Marines (2/8) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina consisting of approximately 900 marines and sailors / Nicknamed "America's



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Battalion", they fall under the 8th Marine Regiment and the 2nd Marine Division / The mission of the Marine Corps rifle squad is to locate, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver and/ or repel enemy assault by fire and close combat / 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines was activated on 1 April 1940 and participated in the Battle of Guadalcanal, Battle of Tarawa, Battle of Saipan, Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / Following the surrender of Japan, the battalion deployed to Nagasaki, Japan in September 1945 as part of the occupation / The 2/8 was deployed to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base as part of the Cuban Missile Crisis from October to December 1962 / The 2/8 participated as part of Multi-Nation Peace Keeping Force in Lebanon August – September 1982, and November 1983 - February 1984 and the Global War on Terror

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

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

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PITTORF, SR.**

**WARREN R.**

**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:**

Warren R. Pittorf, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Warren R. Pittorf, Sr. passed away on 25 July 2025 at the age of 86 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PIWOWARCZYK

RONALD E.

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RM2

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Radioman Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald E. Piwowarczyk honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Piwowarczyk was a Senior Special Agent for U.S. Immigration and President and Life Member of Reserve Hose Fire Company / Piwowarczyk was one of first responders from Western New York who went to Ground Zero to assist after New York was attacked on 9/11/2001 / Ronald E. Piwowarczyk passed away on 5 September 2014

Navy Radioman (RM) was a rating for United States Navy and United States Coast Guard enlisted personnel, specializing in communications technology / The Radiomen of the US Navy were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / They were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PLANDOWSKI, JR.**  
**EDWARD**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:** 1LT

**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:**

First Lieutenant Edward J. Plandowski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Military / 1LT Edward Plandowski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward J. Plandowski, Jr. passed away on 5 February 2012 at the age of 64 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

**Name:** **PLOWDEN**

**MARCUS**

**E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Marcus E. Plowden honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Marcus Plowden was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 11 February 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Marcus Plowden retired from the General Motors Powertrain Plant in Tonawanda, New York / Marcus E. Plowden passed away on 26 September 2025 at the age of 75 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POCHOPIN**  
**DONALD**

**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:**

Donald Pochopin honorably served in the United States Military / Donald Pochopin was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PODKLADEK**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**JOHN S.**

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John S. Podkladek honorably served in the United States Navy / John Podkladek was a member of the Navy Seabees

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Podkladek worked at Construction Associates and retired from CBO Glass (Buffalo) / Podkladek was a member of the American Legion Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 / John S. Podkladek passed away on 16 March 2025 at the age of 74 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PODOSEK III**

**JOHN J.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:** **CPL**

**Year Entered:** **1975**

**Year Discharged:** **1979**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal John Joseph Podosek, III honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Born in Buffalo, John Podosek moved to Elmira Heights / Podosek was employed by the CVS Distribution Center in Waverly, New York as a forklift operator / John Joseph Podosek, III passed away on 27 September 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** POKIGO

RAYMOND J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**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:**

Raymond J. Pokigo honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond J. Pokigo passed away on 22 July 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** POLAK

THOMAS A.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "A", 3RD BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY, 5TH UNITED STATES ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE STARS  
AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Thomas Anthony Polak honorably served in the United States Army as a Light Weapons Infantryman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas A. Polak was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

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

The 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry was constituted 3 May 1861 in the Regular Army / The 1st Infantry was assigned 17 November 1917 to the 5th Division (later redesignated as the 5th Infantry Division) / In July 1968, the 11th deployed for action in Vietnam and operated in Cam Lộ, Đông Hà, Quảng Trị, and Khe Sanh / The 11th Infantry participated in several major operations, including Operation Dewey Canyon II, Operation Wolfe Mountain, and Operation Green River / The 11th Infantry Regiment suffered 153 killed in Vietnam / The 11th returned to Fort Carson on 6 August 1971 and served there as part of the 4th Infantry Division until 15 January



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Town of West Seneca, New York

1984 when the battalion was inactivated

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POLCHLOPEK**  
**JOSEPH**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Joseph Polchlopek honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POLILLA**

**JOHN**

**C.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** INDIAN CHURCH ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

1967 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant John C. Polilla honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT John Polilla was deployed to Vietnam / SGT John Polilla saw temporary duty assignments in Korea, Taiwan, Wake Island, Guam, and Okinawa / Sergeant John C. Polilla was also assigned to the USAF Security Service where he served as a security courier

**Base Assignments:**

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

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



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Communications, refrigeration, air conditioning, and power production operator and repairman training were transferred to Sheppard in 1959

Camp Drake, Asaka City, Saitama, Japan - Located northwest of Tokyo, Camp Drake was one of many former American bases around Tokyo / Originally a golf club, it became the site of an army uniform factory during World War II, and was subsequently used as a training camp by the US army / During the Vietnam War, Camp Drake served as a joint US Army/Air Force base, active until the 1970's / Camp Drake contained the 249th General Hospital, which handled troops coming out of Vietnam and also housed the communication center for Far East military operations

## *Miscellaneous:*

John C. Polilla graduated from Bishop Timon High School / Polilla attended Erie Community College before entering military service / After his Honorable Discharge from the Air Force, John Polilla found employment with the Bethlehem Steel Corp until the giant steelmaker finally shut down / John Polilla went to work for the Erie County Highway Department, retiring after 35 years of service

A temporary duty assignment (TDY) refers to a United States military personnel travel assignment at a location other than the personnel's permanent duty station / This type of secondary assignment is usually of relatively short duration, typically from two days to 179 days in length

The 1967 Communications Squadron was activated on 1 July 1961 to perform communications functions in Vietnam and inactivated on 31 July 1974 / The 1967 Comm Squadron was absorbed by the 1956 Communications Group

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

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



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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POLITO**

**VINCENT L.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS HENLEY (DD-762)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Third-Class Vincent Louis Polito honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Vincent Polito served 21 months aboard the USS Henley during the Cuban Missile Blockade in 1962

Vincent Polito was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 6 August 1963

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Vincent Polito was a banker, musician and the owner of Creekview Estates Apartments in Lockport and was a member of the Knights of Columbus / Vincent Louis Polito passed away on 25 May 2021 at the age of 78 years old

USS Henley (DD-762), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named Henley, was named after Captain Robert Henley (5 January 1783 – 7 October 1828); an officer in the United States Navy during the Quasi-War with France, the War of 1812 and the Second Barbary War / The Henley was commissioned on 8 October 1946 / Henley patrolled with other United Nations ships in the summer of 1948 as the Israeli-Arab dispute threatened to erupt into war / During the Cuban Missile Crisis in the fall of 1962 over offensive missiles stationed in Cuba, Henley joined the fleet "quarantining" the island / Following this, she then returned to a peacetime pattern of readiness operations / The Heley was decommissioned in 1973 and sold 24 June 1974 and broken up for scrap

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** POLLUTRO, SR.

MICHAEL J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

7272 SUPPORT GROUP, THIRD US AIR FORCE, US AIR FORCE EUROPE-AFRICA

**Medals / Citations:**

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class Michael J. Pollutro, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C Michael Pollutro was assigned as an Apprentice Cook while stationed in Libya for 15 months with the 7272nd Support Group, Third Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael J. Pollutro, Sr. passed away on 3 February 2023 at the age of 67 years old and is interred at Mt. Hope Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

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

The Third Air Force (Air Forces Europe) (3 AF) is a numbered air force of the United States Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) / Its headquarters is Ramstein Air Base, Germany / It is responsible for all U.S. air forces in Europe and Africa, and operations and support activities in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command's areas of responsibility

The Cold War Service Medal Act authorizes a service medal for those in the military between September 1945



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and December 1991 who served on active duty for 24 consecutive months during the Cold War; were deployed outside of the continental U.S. for a period of at least 30 days during the Cold War; or were a member of a reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold War

The 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:** **POLNIAK**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

MACV, 507TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP, 4TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Robert Joseph Polniak honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Robert Polniak was deployed to Vietnam on 3 November 1970 as a Transportation Movements Officer / Captain Robert Polniak was Killed In Action on 29 November 1970 when the aircraft he was onboard, crashed in bad weather in Ninh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

On 29 November 1970, a USAF C-123K Provider (#54-0649), Flight Bookie 540, from the 310th Tactical Airlift Squadron, was on a routine milk run (passenger) mission from Phan Rang to Cam Rahn Bay when it crashed into a mountain ridge 14 miles outside Cam Rahn Bay / The Provider crashed in poor weather, striking high ground at an altitude of 2700 feet in thick clouds / On board the aircraft were 44 people, consisting of 5 crewmen and 39 passengers / There were 32 U.S. military and 12 South Vietnamese soldiers / Two ARVN survivors were found five days later walking toward a road / The crash site was located after a week on December 5th by U.S. Army Rangers and South Vietnamese Rangers / They found two U.S. survivors, CAPT Vincent J. Fairbrother Jr. and SGT Gary Aldredge, who had endured the week with no food or water / Thirty U.S. military plus ten ARVN troops were killed. The lost crew included pilot CAPT Cecil G. Moyer Jr., co-pilot 1LT James F. Saxby, and crewmen SSGT Grayson H. Newberry, SSGT Harry A. Watson, and CAPT Norbert A. Podhajsky. The U.S. passengers killed were SGT Jack R. Gibbs, TSGT Robert B. Johnson, SGT James E. Stubblefield, SMS Bobby D. Seay, SSGT James C. Starnes, 1LT Elmon C. Caudill II, 1LT Jon M. King, PVT Gary Anderson, A1C James B. Young, CWO Franklin D. Defenbaugh, SP4 Samuel A. Grayson III, SP4 Charles A. Johnson, SP4 Donald A. Slate, 1LT Charles L. Kollenberg, SGT Ronnie C. Teschendorf, SP4 George Beedy, SGT Billy J. Hogan Jr., SGT Raymond H. Gray, SGT Joseph C. Blackwell, PFC Joseph A. Jacques, PFC Arthur J. Menn, SP4 Ronald R. Greenhouse, SSGT Ralph S. Guck, CAPT



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William D. Kennedy III, and CAPT Robert J. Polniak

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Robert Polniak graduated from Bishop Ryan High School in 1964 / Polniak went to Canisius College of Buffalo, graduating in June 1968 with a BA in history and a commission in the United States Army Reserve / Robert Joseph Polniak was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii

Robert Joseph Polniak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06w, Line 95

During the Vietnam War, the Transportation Corps played a crucial role in ensuring the movement of troops, supplies, and equipment / The Transportation Movements Officer (TMO) was responsible for coordinating and overseeing transportation operations within the military / They supervised personnel performing various duties, including Motor Transport Operators, Traffic Management Coordinators, and Terminal Operations Coordinators / During the Vietnam War, the Transportation Corps adapted to its role in the use and sustainment of rotary-wing aviation / They fielded new aircraft, and aviation maintainers adopted the motto of "Find 'em, Fix 'em, and Fly 'em" to keep the helicopters operational

Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Teams were out there alone- not on base camps, air bases or at sea / Small groups of Americans often in remote areas supported only by Vietnamese forces whose capabilities and loyalty were sometimes suspect / Military Assistance Command Vietnam (Saigon) had authority over all branches of service operating in the Republic of Vietnam / US Army advisors were under the direct command of MACV and were administered independently from the United States Army Vietnam (Long Binh / Most advisory teams were comprised of approximately 35 US advisors under the local command of a senior advisor / These advisors fought alongside Vietnamese ARVN and militia units / Although they did not share in the public limelight of their USARV counterparts, their mission was an integral part of US strategy in Vietnam / MACV arrived in-country on 8 February 1962, and departed over a decade later on 29 March 1973

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

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

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United



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States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** POMERHN

WILLIAM A.

**Hometown:** ELMA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

William A. "Bill" Pomerhn honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Pomerhn was a University of Buffalo graduate and worked as an Engineer / Pomerhn was also a Christian Pastor / William A. "Bill" Pomerhn, after battling Parkinson's Disease for many years, passed away on 5 August 2023 at the age of 79 years old / William Pomerhn is interred at Elma Cemetery, Elma, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PONCE**  
**JOHN**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-6

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION  
COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 174TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (ARMY NATIONAL GUARD)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR  
COMBAT ACTION RIBBON  
MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
RVN CROSS OF GALLANTRY MEDAL W/PALM & FRAME  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff-Sergeant John Ponce honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SSGT John Ponce served 18 months of combat duty in Vietnam as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / SSGT Ponce also served 8 years in the Army National Guard of New York

John Ponce received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 13 November 1970 and was Honorably Discharged from the Army National Guard of New York on 13 October 1978

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Ponce passed away on 6 August 2018 and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

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

3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5, nicknamed Dark Horse) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine



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Corps. The battalion is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and consists of approximately 1,000 Marines and Fleet Marine Force Navy personnel / 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, along with the rest of the 5th Marine Regiment, was first organized on June 8, 1917, as the United States prepared for World War I / They participated in campaigns and battles such as Bois de Belleau, Vierzy, Château-Thierry, Pont-a-Mousson, Limey Sector, Fleury, Meuse-Argonne, Blanc Mont, St Michiel, Leffincourt and Soissons m/ During World War II, Marines of 3/5 served in Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu, and Okinawa / At Peleliu, they were the last Marine battalion to be shipped out before the army took over / During October 1949, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, were reactivated on Guam and in August 1950 the battalion deployed to fight against the North Korean army's invasion of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) during the Korean War / The 3rd Battalion fought at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / It inflicted heavy casualties on Chinese forces at the Battle of Hwacheon / The battalion's nickname "Darkhorse" sprang from the radio call sign of its commander in Korea, Colonel Robert Taplett, who was known as "Darkhorse Six" / At the close of hostilities, the 3rd Battalion returned to the United States / From April 1966 to March 1971, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, deployed to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War / They fought in Chu Lai, Da Nang, Quang Nam, Operation Hastings, Operation Union, and Union II in the Que Son valley (where they received a Presidential Unit Citation), the Battle of Hue, An Hoa, Operation Swift in the Que Son Valley (where they received a second Presidential Unit Citation), and Firebase Ross / In October 1989 the battalion deployed to Panama / The 3rd Battalion was deployed for the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the battalion was again deployed in 2004 to capture the city of Fallujah from insurgents' control / In November 2004, the battalion, along with several other units, participated in Operation Phantom Fury (also known as Al Fajr (Dawn)) and was part of one of the biggest battles in Iraq to that time / Members of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, conducted operations in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom between September 2010 and April 2011, where twenty-five of the battalion's Marines were killed in action and 200 were wounded

The 174th Infantry Regiment was an infantry regiment of the United States Army, New York Army National Guard / It traced its heritage back to the 74th New York State Militia formed in Buffalo in 1854 / During the 1980's, "A" Co 1/174th was located at the Masten Ave Armory in Buffalo NY, and Bravo Co 1/174th was located at the Tonawanda Armory located at 79 Delaware Street in Tonawanda, NY / Both Units were part of the 42nd Infantry Division / In the early part of 1981, Bravo Company 1/174th was relocated to the Seneca St. Armory, Hornell, N.Y

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

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

The Combat 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



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

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

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



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**Name:** PORTER

HENRY

M.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Henry M. Porter honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Henry Porter was a graduated from Nichols High School / Porter was a graduate of Cornell University and Cornell University Law School, becoming an Attorney / Henry Porter retired from the from the Lippes Mathias Law Firm as an expert in mergers and acquisitions and tax law / In the early 1970s Henry Porter was part of the team that brought the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Franchise to Buffalo and was the Corporate Secretary of the Buffalo Sabres in the franchise's early years / Porter Henry was part of a United States Tennis Association Team that won a National Championship / Porter was a member of the Buffalo Canoe Club / Henry M. Porter passed away on 23 November 2025 at the age of 88 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** POST

P.

A.

**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:**

P. A. Post honorably served in the United States Military / P. A. Post was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POSTEK**

**DANIEL J.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Daniel Joseph Postek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel Joseph Postek passed away on 27 September 2024 at the age of 83 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** POTTTS, JR.

LEONARD J.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Leonard J. Potts, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Leonard Potts was an Ironworker with Local #6 for over 50 years / Leonard J. Potts, Jr. passed away on 29 September 2024 at the age of 78 years old

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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**Name:** POWERS

GERALD

E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 72 MONCLAIR AVENUE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC (E-3)

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

390TH INFANTRY TRAINING REGIMENT RESERVE

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Gerald E. Powers honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Gerald Powers was assigned as a Company Payroll Clerk

**Base Assignments:**

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

Camp Kilmer, New Jersey - Constructed in 1942, the camp is named Joyce Kilmer, a poet killed in World War I while serving with 69th Infantry Regiment / Camp Kilmer was a staging area and part of an installation of the New York Port of Embarkation / The camp was organized as part of the Army Service Forces Transportation Corps / Troops were quartered at Camp Kilmer in preparation for transport to the European Theater of Operations in World War II / Eventually, it became the largest processing center for troops heading overseas and returning from World War II, processing over 2.5 million soldiers / During the Cold War after the failed 1956 Hungarian Revolution 30,000 refugees were resettled at Camp Kilmer / In 1963, most of the camp's 1600 acres was auctioned and sold to local governments, and Rutgers University / Camp Kilmer officially closed in 2009.

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald E. Powers attended Canisius College and graduated in May, 1959 / Gerald Powers was employed by the Erie County Department of Social Services as a caseworker prior to entering the Army / Powers received a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Buffalo in May, 1967 / Gerald Powers worked for the



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West Seneca Development Center as a Team Leader until his retirement in March, 1997

**Name:** **POWERS, JR.**  
**ROLAND**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Roland Powers, Jr. honorably served with the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roland Powers was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts / Powers retired from United Airlines after 38 years of service / Roland Powers, Jr. passed away on 10 March 2014 at the age of 70 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POWIS**

**BENJAMIN E.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO3

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Benjamin E. Powis honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Benjamin Powis served aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, a fixed wing attack carrier, as a Boiler Technician for 2 1/2 years

Benjamin Powis received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy on 9 December 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Benjamin E. Powis passed away on 2 July 2023 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Navy Boiler Technician operates and performs maintenance on marine boilers, pumps, and other fire room machinery / Technicians perform tests on boiler water, fuel, and lubricating oils; operates and performs preventive maintenance on boilers and boiler auxiliary equipment; operates distilling plants; tests and calibrates gauges; exercises environmental control procedures / Technicians do repair work; supervises oil spill containment and collecting; prepares environment pollution reports; conducts on-the-job training; monitors maintenance and handling of logs, records, accounts, and reports; prepares quarterly maintenance schedules / Boiler Technicians perform all basic fireman apprenticeship functions in engineering areas aboard ship, involving cleanliness, operation, maintenance, and preservation of main propulsion, auxiliary steam or diesel machinery, steam or diesel generators, various pumps

USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) (formerly CVA-67), is an aircraft carrier, and considered a supercarrier / She is the last conventionally powered carrier built for the Navy / The Kennedy was commissioned on 7 September 1968 /



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The USS Kennedy was named after John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States / The Kennedy was originally designated a CVA, for fixed wing attack carrier, however the designation was changed to CV, for fleet carrier / John F. Kennedy's maiden voyage, and several of her subsequent voyages, were on deployments to the Mediterranean during much of the 1970s to help deal with the steadily deteriorating situation in the Middle East / During the 1970s John F. Kennedy was upgraded to handle the F-14 Tomcat and the S-3 Viking aircraft / On 20 June 1975, the John F. Kennedy was the target of possible arson, suffering eight fires, with no injuries, while at port in Norfolk, Virginia / In August 1980, the John F. Kennedy left Norfolk, Virginia and voyaged to the Mediterranean Sea / In January 1982, the John F. Kennedy, with Carrier Air Wing Three (AC), sailed as the flagship for Carrier Group Four (CCG-4) from Norfolk, Va. on her first visit to the Indian Ocean after port visits to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Malaga, Spain, and transiting the Suez Canal / In October 1983 John F. Kennedy was diverted to Beirut, Lebanon from her planned Indian Ocean deployment, after the Beirut barracks bombing killed 241 U.S. military personnel taking part in the Multinational Force in Lebanon, and spent the rest of that year and early 1984 patrolling the region / On 4 December 1983 ten A-6 aircraft from John F. Kennedy along with A-6 and A-7 aircraft from USS Independence took part in a bombing raid over Beirut, in response to two U.S. F-14 aircraft being fired upon the previous day / In August 1988 John F. Kennedy departed on her twelfth overseas deployment / During this deployment, a pair of MiG-23 Flogger fighter aircraft from Libya approached the carrier task force, which was 81 miles off the shore of Libya near the declared Libyan territorial waters of the Gulf of Sidra / John F. Kennedy launched two F-14 Tomcats from VF-32 "Fighting Swordsmen" to intercept the incoming MiGs / The U.S. planes were sent to escort the MiGs away from the task force but during the course of the intercept, the MiGs were determined to be hostile and were both shot down / During the 11 September attacks of 2001 unfolded, John F. Kennedy and her battle group were ordered to support Operation Noble Eagle, establishing air security along the mid-Atlantic seaboard, including Washington, D.C. / The John F. Kennedy was decommissioned on 23 March 2007 and on 6 October 2021, the John F. Kennedy was sold for one-cent to International Shipbreaking Limited



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **POYDOCK, JR.**

**CARL**

**J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CALVARY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Carl Jerome Poydock, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Carl Poydock was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded two Purple Heart Medals for wounds suffered in combat action

On 15 March 1967, Sergeant Carl Poydock's unit was attacked in Vietnam and SGT Poydock was shot in the left leg and spent three months recovering at a military hospital in Japan / SGT Carl Poydock was wounded a second time on 12 November 1967, while providing security in the rear of a resupply truck, when an enemy attack left Sgt. Poydock with several shrapnel wounds

On 21 May 2012, Carl J. Poydock, Jr. received his second Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Town of West Seneca's Walkway of Freedom in Veterans Memorial Park

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carl Poydock was a 1961 graduate of West Seneca High School and drafted into the U.S. Army on 4 July 1966 / Carl Jerome Poydock, Jr. passed away on 27 August 2022 at the age of 79 years old

The 5th Cavalry Regiment ("Black Knights") is a historical unit of the United States Army that began its service on 3 August 1861, when an act of Congress enacted "that the two regiments of dragoons, the regiment of mounted



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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riflemen, and the two regiments of cavalry shall hereafter be known and recognized, as the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth regiments of cavalry respectively and continues in modified organizational format in the U.S. Army / On 3 March 1855, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (later to be known as the 5th Cavalry Regiment) was activated in Louisville, Kentucky with troopers drawn from the states of Alabama, Maryland, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia / On 9 April 1865, the 5th Cavalry was selected to serve as the Union Honor Guard for the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse / During World War II, the 5th Cavalry fought in the battles of Los Negros, Leyte, and Luzon / After the surrender of Japanese forces, the 5th Cavalry was part of the occupation forces / The 5th Cavalry Regiment saw action in Korea during the Korean War and left the country on 7 December 1951 after 549 days of constant combat / During the Vietnam War, the 5th Cavalry Regiment was deployed to Vietnam in September 1965 / In Vietnam, 5th Cavalry units participated in twelve campaigns, including Operation Thayer, Operation Pershing, Operation Tet Offensive, Operation Jeb Stuart III, Operation Toan Thang II and Operation Cheyenne Sabre / Six 5th Cavalry Regiment Troopers received the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War / The remaining units of the 5th Cavalry regiment left Vietnam in January 1973

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

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

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

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

The Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRABUCKI

EDWARD D.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS.

**Rank:** E-2

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

BATTERY "F", 2ND BATTALION, 11TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Edward David Prabucki honorably served in the United States Marine Corps as a Field Artillery Fire Control Man

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward D. Prabucki was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

Marine Corps Field Artillery Fire Control Man assist in delivery accurate fire to enemy positions / The Marine Corps Field Artillery team is an important component of ground infantry / Soldiers provide firepower and support to assist in combat operations

2d Battalion, 11th Marines (callsign "Patriot") have served as an integral component of the Marine Corps since 1918 when the battalion was formed in France at the end of World War I / Participating in every major conflict of the 20th and 21st century, the unit has primarily served as a cannon artillery battalion since the beginning of World War II / The battalion is comprised of three cannon batteries (Battery E, Battery F, and Battery G), a headquarters battery, and a fire support battery / Each firing battery fields the M777A2 howitzer capable of firing a 100-lb explosive projectile over 15 miles with precision accuracy / Within headquarters battery the unit's staff and support sections are formed into administrative, intelligence, operations, survey, logistics, motor-transport, medical, supply, maintenance, and communications elements / Each support section enables the battalion to field multiple combat formations in order to deploy worldwide in support of combatant commands



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and Marine Corps objectives / The Fire Support battery is comprised of Fire Support Teams that liaise with infantry-maneuver units and provide critical sensing, planning, coordination, and execution of supporting arms fires for the maneuver commander / The battalion is part of the historic 11th Marine Regiment (callsign "Cannon Cockers") and the legendary 1st Marine Division (callsign "Blue Diamond")

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRANGE

GAIL

G.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1958

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS WISCONSIN

USS RANGER

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Gail G. "Homer" Prange honorably served in the United States Navy / Gail Prange served in the Pacific aboard the battleship USS Wisconsin and the aircraft carrier USS Ranger

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gail Prange was a graduate of Seneca Vocational High School and attended Buffalo State College / Gail Prange was an insurance Claims Adjuster for more than 20 years with Allied Claim Services, becoming vice president of property claims / Prange began a second career in the Buffalo City Clerk's Office, working as an archivist for more than 10 years / Homer was a member of the USS Wisconsin Association / Gail G. "Homer" Prange passed away on 12 January 214 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PRAST**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**MARTIN T.**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (2)

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant Martin Thomas Prast honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Martin Prast was deployed to Vietnam as an Infantry Unit Commander / 1LT Martin Prast was Wounded In Action on 30 January 1970 from an enemy explosive device during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

1LT Martin Prast had already earned the Purple Heart twice when on 30 January 1970, Prast was severely wounded when a booby trap blew up in his chest / Injured, he crawled back to his platoon to insure the safety of his men / Prast was placed on a supply helicopter and evacuated to a field hospital / There the medical staff determined in triage that Lieutenant Prast was beyond saving / He was left on a stretcher outside / Both lungs had collapsed and shrapnel wounds pierced his heart / One arm was dislocated and it did not look good for 1st Lieutenant Marty Prast / After completing surgery on other wounded soldiers, medical personnel saw that, despite the odds, Prast was still very much alive / The doctors decided to amputate his badly mangled and dislocated arm / Martin Prast survived, but was left a paraplegic

Martin Prast went home to Grand Island, New York / After returning from Vietnam and while recuperating from his wounds, he formed the Blind, Crippled, and Crazy Racing Club in Grand Island / In 1988 he was elected Grand Island Supervisor / His administration oversaw the development of Veterans Park, a system of bike paths, and a new library / Although Prast died 28 years after being wounded, the Defense Department was persuaded to classify him as a casualty of the war / On Memorial Day 1999, the name "Martin Thomas Prast" was added to the



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington

1st Lieutenant Martin Prast was a Green Beret paratrooper, rising in rank from Private to First Lieutenant / 1LT Prast was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for heroic service in a combat zone

### *Base Assignments:*

### *Miscellaneous:*

Martin Prast was born in Heidelberg, Germany and came to the United States as an infant Prast attended Grand Island schools, was a graduate of Canisius High School and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in finance from Canisius College / Prast enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1968 / Returning to Grand Island as a paraplegic, Martin Prast helped develop the "paco brace," which enables paraplegics to stand and move without crutches / The winner of several local, state and national awards, he served on committees to remove barriers to the handicapped from public buildings / Martin Prast was elected as Grand Island Tax Receiver in 1979 and also served four terms as Councilman / Prast was elected as Grand Island Town Supervisor in 1988 and served one term / Prast was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #9241; Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #168; Eastern Paralyzed Veterans of American and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #77 / Martin Thomas Prast passed away on 21 January 1998 at the age of 50 years old and is interred at Whitehaven Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

Martin Thomas Prast is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08w, Line 81

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

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

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



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The brigade was inactivated at Fort Lewis on 30 November 1971

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units



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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRAWEL

GERALD

E.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Gerald E. Prawel honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Prawel retired from Buffalo Forge after 36 years and worked at Wegman's part-time / Gerald E. Prawel passed away on 22 May 2025 at the age of 90 Years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRESTON

KENNETH H.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Kenneth H. Preston honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Kenneth Preston joined the Hamburg Police Department / Preston retired as a Detective Sergeant and moved to Fort Myers Beach, Florida / Preston was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #1419 in Lakeview and the American Legion Post #274 in Fort Myers Beach / Kenneth H. Preston passed away on 22 October 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRIVITERA

MARK J.

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**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:**

Mark J. Privitera honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Mark J. Privitera passed away on 4 May 2024 at the age of 66 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRIVITERE  
FRANK

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** LT

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1959

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Frank Privitere honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Privitere passed away on 8 January 2008,

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PRUETT

DAVID

**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:**

David Pruett honorably served in the United States Military / David Pruett 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:** PRZEPASNIAK

WALTER J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR FORCE MERITORIOUS MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Walter J. Przepasniak honorably served in the United States Air Force / Walter Przepasniak was stationed for 10 months in Korea as an Engineering Specialist

Walter Przepasniak was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 11 June 1969

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Walter Przepasniak worked as a Public Servant for 37 years / Przepasniak was a member of the Directors and Legion of Honor of Ismailia Shriners of Buffalo and a member of Wiechec's Social Athletic Club / Walter J. Przepasniak passed away on 10 October 2024 at the age of 83 years old

The Air Force Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to any member of the armed forces of the United States who distinguishes themselves by either outstanding achievement or meritorious service to the United States

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

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



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

**Name:** PSARADELIS

JAMES C.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James C. Psaradelis honorably served in the United States Air Force / Psaradelis completed Air Force Basic Training in 1965, then transferred to the Air National Guard in Niagara Falls / James Psaradelis served 12 months in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Psaradelis suffered health issues as a result of exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam / James C. Psaradelis passed away on 9 September 2018



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **PUCCI**

**MICHAEL E.**

**Hometown:** MARILLA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael E. Pucci honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Pucci was a member of the Local #22 (formerly #36) Plumbers Union for 55 years and a member of the Marilla Vets Club and a benevolent member of the Marilla Fire Co. and Town Line Fire Co. / Michael E. Pucci passed away on 13 February 2023 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Annunciation Cemetery, Elma, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PUCKETT

RONALD T.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Ronald T. Puckett honorably served in the United States Army and the National Guard during the Vietnam Era

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Puckett graduated from Bennett High School in 1961 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Puckett had a long and successful career operating heavy machinery as a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers (I.U.O.E.) Local #17, retiring in 2000 / Ronald Puckett coached in many youth programs and played baseball for the State Cahmpion Legion Post / Ronald Puckett was the Commander of American Legion Post 735 for many years, Past Commander of Erie County Committee American Legion, Member of AmVets #8113, West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee, Masonic Lodge #1111, and I.U.O.E Local #17 / Ronald T. Puckett passed away at the age of 81 years old on 16 April 2024 and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, 4215 Tonawanda Creek Rd, North Tonawanda, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PULKA

DAVID M.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

553RD FIELD COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR  
 MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
 NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant David Michael Pula honorably served in the United States Army / SGT David Pula was deployed to Vietnam from 25 March 1968 through 23 March 1969

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Hood, Texas

**Miscellaneous:**

David M. Pula was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PULLI**

**JOHN**

**J.**

Hometown: CLARENCE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

John J. Pulli honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Pulli retired from the VA Healthcare System after 30 years of service / John J. Pulli passed away on 12 March 2024 at the age of 90 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** PUTNAM JR.

ROGER W.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Roger Wright "Jerry" Putnam, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger Putnam attended Williams College (Williamstown, Massachusetts) / Putnam worked as a Real Estate Agent, a liquor store owner, an arson investigator, private investigator and Director of the Buffalo Mayor's Task Force on Property Crime / Putnam was the Tenor Drummer for the Caledonian Pipes and Drums marching Band / Roger Putnam was the Sergeant-At-Arms for the Lorenzo Burrows Jr. American Legion Post #78 Color Guard / Putnam moved to Madison, Wisconsin after his retirement / Roger Wright "Jerry" Putnam, Jr. passed away on 26 March 2025 at the age of 89 years old