



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAAB

RICHARD

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MAJ

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 1974

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Major Richard Saab honorably served in the United States Air Force / Major Richard Saab was stationed as the attending Urologist in the hospital at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio

Base Assignments:

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio - The base's origin begins with the establishment of Wilbur Wright Field on 22 May 1917 and McCook Field in November 1917, both established by the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps as World War I installations / McCook was used as a testing field and for aviation experiments. Wright was used as a flying field (renamed Patterson Field in 1931); Fairfield Aviation General Supply Depot; armorers' school, and a temporary storage depot / McCook's functions were transferred to Wright Field when it was closed in October 1927 / Wright-Patterson AFB was established in 1948 as a merger of Patterson and Wright Fields / The base is one of the largest, most diverse, and organizationally complex bases in the Air Force with a long history of flight tests spanning from the Wright Brothers into the Space Age / Wright-Patterson is also the headquarters of the Aeronautical Systems Center and the Air Force Research Laboratory / It is the headquarters of the Air Force Materiel Command (MAC), one of the major commands of the Air Force / "Wright-Patt" (as the base is colloquially called) is also the location of a major USAF Medical Center (hospital), the Air Force Institute of Technology, and the National Museum of the United States Air Force, formerly known as the U.S. Air Force Museum

Miscellaneous:

Richard Saab graduated from Canisius High School in 1958 / After graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1963, Saab went on to the State University of New York - Buffalo, School of Medicine, graduating in 1966 / Richard Saab did his medical residency at the University of Buffalo Medical School and held fellowships at the University of Chicago Hospital & Clinics as well as the Hospital for Sick Children (Pediatric Urology) in Toronto, Canada / Richard Saab started his own Urology practice in Buffalo, where he practiced for over 50 years / Saab



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was a member of the staff at Our Lady of Victory and South Buffalo Mercy hospitals, served on the OLV board, and was the Chief of Urology at both hospitals / Saab was a nine-time club champion, two-time senior club champion, and multiple-time Ahern Cup champion at Wanakah Country Club / Saab was a founding member of the Bear Lakes Country Club in West Palm Beach, Florida and in 2003, he was inducted into the Canisius High School Sports Hall of Fame for both golf and basketball / Richard Saab passed away on 26 July 2025 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SABADASZ**

GORDON P.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/4 BRONZE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Gordon P. Sabadasz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Gordon Sabadasz was deployed to Vietnam for 9 months / CPL Sabadasz was assigned as a Marine Combat Engineer

Corporal Gordon Sabadasz was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 15 December 1972 at Marine Barracks, Fort Mead, Maryland

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gordon Sabadasz worked for the Buffalo News for many years as a mechanic, moved on to become a driver, and eventually ran a Distribution Office / Sabadasz also worked for Hector's Hardware in Kaisertown / Gordon P. Sabadasz passed away on 13 June 2025 at the age of 76 years old

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement



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and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

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 Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) is a mid-level unit award of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Army awards units the Army MUC for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement or service in combat or non-combat, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps award units the Navy MUC for valorous or meritorious achievement or service in combat or non-combat, and the U.S. Coast Guard awards units the Coast Guard MUC for valorous or meritorious achievement or service not involving combat

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: SABO

THOMAS W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MAJ GEN

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 2001

Unit / Squadron:

MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM (MACV)
 409TH PERSONNEL SERVICES COMPANY
 98TH DIVISION 4TH BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

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

Service Notes:

Major General Thomas W. Sabo honorably served in the United States Army / Major General Thomas Sabo was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Officer's Training Corps at Canisius College and then assigned as a platoon leader and company commander with the 24th Infantry Regiment in Germany / While in Vietnam, Sabo served as an executive officer in the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) / Major General Sabo was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone / Sabo joined the 98th Division (Training) in 1970 and became the division's deputy adjutant general in 1974 / Following his promotion to lieutenant colonel in 1980, Sabo served as deputy commander of the 98th Division's 4th Brigade / In 1981, he became adjutant general of the 98th Division (Training) and in 1984 he was promoted to colonel and named commander of the 4th Brigade / In 1980, Sabo was promoted to brigadier general and named as commanding general of the 98th Division in 1992 / In 1993, Thomas W. Sabo was promoted to major general / Sabo relinquished his command in 1996 and retired from the Army Reserves in 2001

Base Assignments:

Fort Riley, Kansas - Located in north central Kansas, Fort Riley is named in honor of Major General Bennet C. Riley, who led the first military escort along the Santa Fe Trail / The fort was established in 1853 as a military post to protect the movement of people and trade over the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe trails / In the years after the Civil War, Fort Riley served as a major United States Cavalry post and school for cavalry tactics and practice / The post was a base for skirmishes with Native Americans after the Civil War ended in 1865, during which time George A. Custer was stationed at the fort / America's entry into World War I resulted in many changes at Fort Riley, when facilities were greatly expanded to accommodate 30,000 to 50,000 men / With



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America's entry into World War II, approximately 125,000 soldiers were trained at these facilities / Notable trainees included heavyweight boxing champion, Joe Louis, Indy car driver Walt Faulkner, and motion picture stars such as Mickey Rooney / The post also received a presidential visit by Franklin Roosevelt on Easter Sunday 1943 / During the Korean War, recruits from all over the United States came to Fort Riley and received basic training / In 1965, during the Vietnam War, a provisional basic combat training brigade was organized at Fort Riley and in February 1966, the 9th Infantry Division was reactivated / Reserve Officer Training Corps summer camps were also held at the fort, which permitted troops to demonstrate and teach their skills to aspiring second lieutenants / On 5 June 1999, Fort Riley once again became a Division Headquarters with the reactivation of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) / On June 1, 2006, Fort Riley began training Military Transition Teams, or MiTTs / These 10-15 man teams from across the Army, Navy and Air Force trained at Fort Riley's Camp Funston for 60 days / Transition Team training is focused training preparing teams to train, mentor and advise Iraqi and Afghan security forces

Miscellaneous:

Thomas W. Sabo graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School and attended Reserve Officer's Training Corps at Canisius College prior to joining the Army Reserves / While in the reserves, Sabo also worked for Micahel P. Guastella & Associates, an insurance company, as a vice president of operations / Sabo and his wife of 45 years, Lorie E. Foroscij, had two children / Army Reserve Major General Thomas W. Sabo passed away on 18 October 2016

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (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

The 98th Infantry Division ("Iroquois") was a unit of the United States Army in the closing months of World War I and during World War II / The unit is now one of the U.S. Army Reserve's training divisions, officially known as the 98th Training Division (Initial Entry Training) / The 98th Training Division's current primary mission is to conduct Initial Entry Training (IET) for new soldiers / It is one of three training divisions subordinate to the 108th Training Command (IET)

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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Name: SACCOMANNO
JOSEPH

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: 1961

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph Saccomanno honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Joseph Saccomanno was assigned as a Pharmacy Specialist while stationed for 12 months on active duty in South Korea

Joseph Saccomanno was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 1 February 1961

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Saccomanno passed away on 26 March 2018 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

A Pharmacy Specialist in the Army plays a crucial role in the healthcare team by preparing and dispensing medications and maintaining pharmacy supplies and records under the supervision of pharmacists and doctors

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: **SADLER**

RONALD F.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 372 ELLICOTT CREEK ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 501ST INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Ronald Francis Sadler honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Ronald Sadler was deployed to Vietnam on 14 December 1967 as a Communications Center Specialist / PFC Ronald Sadler was Killed In Action on 24 March 1968 from wounds suffered when hit by enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

Hue, the ancient imperial capital of Vietnam, was a primary objective for the enemy in the Tet Offensive / Much of the city had been occupied by the VC at the end of January and it had taken three weeks of vicious fighting before the city had been cleared, but VC and NVA forces still were abundant in the surrounding countryside / In the third week of March 1968 the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry was conducting sweeps west of Hue in an effort to locate and destroy VC/NVA units / The battalion lost 25 men during a series of engagements between 21 and 26 March 1968 / PFC Ronald Sadler was killed on 24 March 1968 during engagement with enemy forces

Base Assignments:

Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky–Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers /



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The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Sadler was a graduate of Tonawanda Senior High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army on 29 September 1966 / Ronald Francis Sadler was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York

Ronald Francis Sadler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 46e, Line 12

Communications Center Specialist supervises teletypewriter, crypto material, and message handling activities; assigns personnel to duties; observes and corrects faulty work procedures; assures observance of proper security measures; checks controls to assure proper recording of information; takes action on service messages; performs administrative functions such as establishment of records, supply requisitions, changes in procedures, and rotation of personnel to assure adequate coverage message handling and related activities; prepares routine and special reports on communications center and crypto material section operations; evaluates proficiency of subordinate personnel; assists in disposition of classified material; insures that all changes to crypto documents are properly inserted and that subordinates personnel have properly interpreted such changes

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



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The 501st Infantry Regiment, previously the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment and 501st Airborne Infantry Regiment, is an airborne forces regiment of the United States Army with a long history, having served in World War II and the Vietnam War, both as part of the 101st Airborne Division, as well as the War in Afghanistan / It is the first airborne unit by designation in the United States Armed Forces / When the 101st deployed to South Vietnam in 1967, it included the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 501st / The division participated in twelve campaigns and was decorated by the Republic of Vietnam on three occasions / The 2nd Battalion, 501st, while attached to the 3rd Brigade, 101st received a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 / The 2nd Battalion, 501st participated in Operation Texas Star, which culminated in the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord in July 1970 / The entire 101st participated in Operation Dewey Canyon II, in support of the ARVN attack on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos in February–March 1971 / As part of the post-Vietnam reorganization, the 2nd Bn, 501st Infantry was inactivated on 31 July 1972

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

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

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

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

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



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parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAFAROWICZ
MICHAEL

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Michael Safarowicz honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SALASNY, SR.

JMAES

S.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James S. Salasny, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Salasny was a life member of Grand Island Rod & Gun Club, Tonawanda Sportsmens Club, National Rifle Assn. and Niagara Falls Harley Owners Group / Salasny was a Tool & Die maker and Gunsmith / James S. Salasny, Sr. passed away on 8 May 2013 at the age of 68 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SALGY**

LARRY J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

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 MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Larry J. Salgy honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SAMBUCHI**

RALPH A.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Ralph Anthony Sambuchi honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Sambuchi attended Officer Candidate School and became a commissioned officer / Captain Ralph Sambuchi was deployed to Vietnam / CPT Ralph Sambuchi was awarded the Silver Star Medal for acts of bravery on the battlefield / Captain Sambuchi was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered during combat operations

On 18 May 1969, Captain Sambuchi's unit of 200 men of Husky Compound were ambushed by 1400 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong Troops in Won Loc, Vietnam / His unit fought bravely, sometimes hand to hand, and stemmed the enemy's onslaught / They suffered nearly 80 casualties that night, while killing or wounding almost 700 NVA-Viet Cong / Captain Sambuchi's body was riddled with bullets, shrapnel and fire / Left for dead, Captain Sambuchi was struck 14 times by shell fragments and bullets / A bullet from a Viet Cong rifle tore away his nose and right eye, while another severed his toes / His burning bunker caused second and third degree burns / A ball of fire from a flamethrower, hit him in the forehead and shaved off his hair and ear / Sambuchi laid for hours until he was awakened by someone calling his name / Corporal Barker, Pfc. Indelicato and Sgt. Clark risked their lives trying to find him / CPT Sambuchi was evacuated by helicopter to Long Binh Hospital about 25 miles away / At the hospital he had two cardiac arrests / During the next 41 years Captain Sambuchi had in excess of 200 operations and as many hospital stays to repair a shattered arm, lost nose, eye and ear, skin grafts to face, legs and chest, 8 missing toes and multiple other shrapnel wounds / He literally died on an operating table but was revived twice

During this attack, Captain Sambuchi was wearing a new Army issued flack jacket that actually prevented his lungs from collapsing after being shot twice in the chest / In the hospital, the only part of his body that was not



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riddled with shrapnel wounds and burns was the area protected by this flack jacket / After learning of Captain Sambuchi's story, the Army made the new flack jacket standard issue, citing Sambuchi's experience and how it saved his life and would go on to save others.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Sambuchi graduated from Lackawanna High School in 1960 and starred in football and held records in Track and Field / Sambuchi attended the University of Buffalo for one year before joining the U.S. Army / Ralph Sambuchi moved to Massachusetts and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Legion in Boston, Massachusetts / Ralph Anthony Sambuchi passed away on 18 May 2010 at the age of 67 years old and is interred at Glenwood Cemetery, Maynard, Massachusetts

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

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

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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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: **SAMPSON III**

JOHN

F.

Hometown: COLDEN

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 F. Sampson III honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Sampson was a member of the Flying Knights of Hamburg, an organization to promote model aircraft building and safe flying / John F. Sampson III passed away on 24 July 2023 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Prospect Lawn Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SANDERS

DENNIS

M.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Dennis Sanders honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Sanders was an Industrial Arts/Technology teacher for over 27 years at LeRoy Central School District / Dennis M. Sanders passed away at the age of 76 years old on 15 May 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SANDERS
DENNIS

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Dennis Sanders honorably served in the United States Military / Dennis Sanders was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SANDS

ROBERT P.

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:

Robert P. Sands honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Sands was a member of the Pierce-Arrow Society for over 50 years / Sands was employed by Bethlehem Steel Manufacturing for over 40 years / Robert P. "Muzzy" Sands passed away on 24 July 2024 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SANIO

PAUL

H.

Hometown: EDEN

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Paul H. Sanio honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Sanio was a graduate of Buffalo State University / Paul Sanio was a Social Studies Teacher at Burgard High School for 28 years / Paul H. Sanio passed away on 27 March 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Town Line Lutheran Cemetery, Alden, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAPIENZA

RICHARD P.

Hometown: TOWN OF TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Richard Paul Sapienza honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Richard Sapienza was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Sapienza was a graduate of the University of Buffalo and spent his career with the New York State Department of Corrections / Richard Paul Sapienza passed away on 3 April 2023

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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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: **SARGENT**
JOHN

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:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SARGIS

GEORGE R.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 85 FRENCH LEA ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

23RD INFANTRY DIVISION - AMERICAL

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth Class George "Bob" Sargis honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 George Sargis was assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) and stationed at the U. S. Army base at Chu Lai, Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort 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)

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located approximately 56 miles southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a U.S. military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Originally established by the Marines, the base was handed over to the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in April 1967 and subsequently became the headquarters and base area for the 23rd Americal Division from September 1967 until November 1971

Miscellaneous:

After an Honorable Discharge, George Sargis became the Assistant Manager at the AM&A's Shoe Department at the Thruway Plaza, later moving up to Department Manager

The 23rd Infantry Division, more commonly known as the Americal Division, of the United States Army was



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activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II (a distinction it would repeat when reformed during the Vietnam War) / At the suggestion of a subordinate, the division's commander, Major General Alexander Patch, requested that the new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" - This was unusual, as most U. S. divisions are known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division / The Americal was reactivated 25 September 1967 at Chu Lai in Vietnam from a combination of units already in Vietnam and newly arrived units / The Americal Division never lost a major battle in Vietnam, accounting for thousands of enemy dead and wounded, and is noted for its exemplary performance during the Tet Offensive, The Battle of LoGiang, the Battle of Nui Hoac Ridge (Hill 352) and throughout its approximate 6 year deployment in Vietnam / Americal casualties in Vietnam numbered 4,041 during 2,111 days of combat / The division was inactivated following its withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971

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 Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a special type of recognition for service members / The Army Commendation Medal is considered a "mid-level" military decoration / The commendation is generally awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / It's usually granted to U.S. Army personnel that are not general officers / All in all, there are Commendation Medals for each service branch (Army, Naval Service, Air and Space Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard)

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAUER

FRANKLIN R.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1945

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Franklin R. "Frank" Sauer honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Franklin Sauer retired from the United States Marine Corps where he served from 1945 through 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Franklin Sauer was a member of the American Legion Post #1041 in Amherst, New York / Franklin R. "Frank" Sauer passed away on 8 July 2023 at the age of 95 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAUER

PAUL

L.

Hometown: GETZVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: LT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Paul L. Sauer honorably served in the United States Army / LT Paul Sauer was deployed to Vietnam and served for a year as an administrative officer for MEDCAP, the Medical Civic Action Program in Vietnam, in which American medics provided care and aid for the Vietnamese / LT Sauer often went to villages with doctors and assisted in treating women and children / LT Paul Sauer was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Sauer attended the University of Notre Dame / Paul Sauer was a Professor Emeritus of marketing and information systems at Canisius University and a pioneer in teaching business management in China / Sauer was an ROTC cadet / Paul Sauer earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1968 from the Ohio State University / Upon completing his doctorate in marketing from the Ohio State University Fisher College of Business in 1985, Dr. Paul Sauer joined the faculty at the University at Buffalo and went on to Canisius in 1990, where he taught for more than 30 years / Dr. Sauer was part of a joint venture that began in 1984 between the UB School of Management and the Dalian University of Technology in China / Dr. Sauer taught two of the first MBA classes to be offered in China / Sauer returned to China in 1987 for the Dalian Petrochemical Seminar, in 1990 for the National Center Marketing Seminar, in 1993 for the Ohio State University's MBA and Executive Education programs with Fudan University in Shanghai, and in 2000 and 2001 for the BiMBA Program (Beijing International MBA) at Peking University in Beijing Dr. Sauer's students became leaders in China's modernization and reforms / Those students included Li Ping, president of China Telecom (Hong Kong) International Ltd. and CEO of China Mobile Ltd / Dr. Sauer also taught in an MBA program in Riga, Latvia, in 1994 / Dr. Sauer published numerous research papers on marketing topics and student behavior in academic journals and assisted the



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Canisius administration in studies to improve the student retention rate / Dr. Sauer received many grants, honors and awards / Along with the engineering honor societies, Dr. Paul Sauer was a member of the American Marketing Association and Beta Gamma Sigma, the international business honor society / Paul L. Sauer passed away on 28 June 2025 at the age of 80 Years old, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SAUTER

ALLEN

F.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

282ND AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/STAR

ARMY AIR MEDAL W/V DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT PISTOL (45)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 1960 DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT RIFLE (M-16)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Allen F. Sauter honorably served in the United States Army / Allen Sauter was deployed to Vietnam for 18 months as a Fire Fighter assigned to the 282nd Aviation Company (Assault Helicopters) Marble Mountain Air Facility, Da Nang Vietnam

Allen Sauter received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on on 1 April 1970

Base Assignments:

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



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Department of Defense assets, including Fort Rucker / In 2021, the Moore family started a petition to rename the fort in honor of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black brigadier general in the USAF

Marble Mountain Air Facility , South Vietnam - Marble Mountain Air Facility (MMAF), also known as Da Nang East Airfield, Marble Mountain Army Airfield and Nuoc Man Airfield, was an aviation facility used primarily by the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War / It was a helicopter facility that was constructed in August 1965 and served as home to Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16), the 5th Special Forces Group and an assortment of other squadrons until May 1971 / It was controlled by the United States Army from May 1971 to August 1972 and finally by the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) from 29 August 1972 to 29 March 1975 when it fell to the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) / It was in Quảng Nam Province 5 miles southeast of Da Nang Air Base on a strip of beach between China Beach and the Marble Mountains

Miscellaneous:

Allen F. Sauter passed away on 11 October 2025 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The responsibilities of Firefighters include: providing fire prevention and suppression, including structure, wildland, and aircraft; assisting with emergency medical responses; conducting emergency medical treatment for casualties; and participating in search and rescue operations

In January 1967, the 282nd Aviation Company was deployed to Vietnam to the I and II Corps advisory effort to South Vietnam / The gauntlet of support rendered I and II Corps necessitated company personnel and aircraft to be garrisoned in selected and separate sited over the I and II Corps area / Ten aircraft were assigned to I Corps, two at Hue Citadel, two at Quang Ngai and six at Da Nang / Sixteen aircraft were assigned to II Corps, eight each at Pleiku and An Son / The unit supported a great variety of missions, carrying in its twenty six assigned aircraft, passengers that ranged from prisoners of war to military and government VIPs and cargo that ranged from medical supplies and ammunition to live animals for food supplies / An urgent mission for the "Alleycats" was called down well before first light on 8 July 1967 / Elements of the 1st ARVN Division were under heavy attack in an area north of Quang Tri / The gunship platoon ("Alleycats") responded immediately, deploying six gunships to the area / Making contact with the enemy, they distinguished themselves in a five hour battle by engaging the enemy in the open areas, tree lines and fortified bunkers / As a result of their superior performances, they were able to boast 193 enemy killed by air (body count) / Through their exemplary action, the ground troops were able to capture eleven prisoners, 68 individual weapons and 26 crew served weapons / This operation has been described as the biggest single victory for an ARVN unit

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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 (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

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: **SAWICKI**
PETER

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:

Peter Sawicki honorably served in the United States Military / Peter Sawicki 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: **SAXER**

ROBERT

M.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert M. Saxer honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Saxer was a retired Book Processor for the Erie County Public Library / Robert M. Saxer passed away on 11 August 2024 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SAXER**

THOMAS

F.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas F. Saxer honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Saxer retired from the Town of Tonawanda / Thomas F. Saxer passed away on 1 March 2025 at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCAHILL**

ROBERT J.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY AIR MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/V DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Joseph Scahill honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Scahill was deployed to Vietnam for multiple tours, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery during combat operations / SP4 Scahill was wounded on the battlefield while engaged with enemy forces and awarded the Purple Heart Medal

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Scahill graduated from Father Baker High School in 1966 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Robert Scahill received his Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from Canisius College and his Juris Doctor (JD) from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo / Scahill practiced real estate, disability, discrimination and 1 other area of law / Robert Joseph Scahill passed away on 23 April 2021 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, 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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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 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 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 Air Medal was established on May 11, 1942 and awarded retroactive to September 8, 1939, to anyone who distinguishes himself by meritorious achievement while serving with the Armed Forces in aerial flight

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a special type of recognition for service members / The Army Commendation Medal is considered a "mid-level" military decoration / The commendation is generally awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / It's usually granted to U.S. Army personnel that are not general officers / All in all, there are Commendation Medals for each service branch (Army, Naval Service, Air and Space Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard) / The "V" device is a 1/4" device that is attached to certain decorations in the U.S. Armed Forces and represents heroism or valor in combat instead of meritorious service / Such situations as active engagement of an enemy force or other actions deemed heroic by the theater commander / All branches use the same V device, and since 2017, all share the same criteria across branches

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: SCARSELLA

GERALD

A.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

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:

Gerald Anthony Scarsella honorably served in the United States Army / Gerald Scarsella was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Anthony Scarsella passed away on 2 February 2005 at the age of 58 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



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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHAAB**

JOSEPH

F.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

"B" COMPANY, 86TH ENGINEERS BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph F. Schaab honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Schaab trained as a Mason and served for 24 months / Swaab was attached to "B" Company, 86th Engineers Battalion at Fort Dix, New Jersey

Joseph F. Schaab was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 1 May 1962

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Schaab, a master craftsman, was the founder and operator of Apex Masonry / Joseph F. Schaab passed away on 25 May 2025 at the age of 88 years old

A Carpentry and Masonry Specialist, uses the skills needed to handle a variety of carpentry and masonry duties, building important structures for the Army using hand and power tools, lumber, concrete, stones, and bricks / The Specialist also help combat engineers build structures to respond to rough terrain and environmental hazards

The 86th Engineer Battalion was constituted 15 July 1940 in the Regular Army as the 86th Engineer Battalion (Heavy Ponton) and activated 9 July 1941 at Fort Knox, Kentucky / The 86th Engineer Battalion participated in



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the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe during World War II / In Vietnam, the 86th participated in many battles including the Tet Offensive in 1969, earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHAEFER**

DAVID R.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **SP-4**

Year Entered: **1966**

Year Discharged: **1968**

Unit / Squadron:

60TH MILITARY POLICE DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David R. Schaefer honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 David Schaefer was trained as a Military Policeman and was stationed in Bad Kreuznach, Germany for 18 months

David R. Schaefer was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 10 June 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Schaefer was a retiree of 27 years from Verizon (Buffalo) and was a Job Coach at Lancaster High School for Special Education students / Schaefer was a member of the Father Baker Knights of Columbus Council #2243 / David R. Schaefer passed away on 24 October 2025 at the age of 79 years old

The United States Army Military Police Corps (USAMPC) is the uniformed law enforcement branch of the United States Army / Investigations are conducted by Military Police Investigators under the Provost Marshal General's Office or Special Agents of the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) / United States Army Military Police units have combat zone responsibilities in addition to their law enforcement duties / These responsibilities include mounted and dismounted patrols, response force operations, area damage control, route reconnaissance, cordon and search operations, critical site security, and convoy and personnel escorts / Operationally, these duties fall under the "security and mobility support" discipline of the Military Police Corps



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHAEFFER**

GEORGE W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR NATIONAL
GUARD

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

George W. Schaeffer honorably served in the United States Air National Guard / George Schseffer enlisted in the Air National Guard as a Chef / He worked the mess kitchens at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and Fort Drum for 6 years, holding the rank of Executive Chef

Base Assignments:

Niagara Falls Air Base, Niagara Falls, New York - The Niagara Falls Air Base was established in 1955 and is an Air Force Reserve Command military installation operationally-gained by the Air Mobility Command / It is located 4.7 miles east-northeast of Niagara Falls, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard) / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base / A Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) for all five branches of the U.S. is also located at the station / In July 1968, approximately 400 members of the 107th were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, for almost a year attached to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing

Fort Drum, New York - Fort Drum is a U.S. Army military reservation in Jefferson County, near the western border of northern New York and is home to the 10th Mountain Division / Its mission includes command of active component units assigned to the installation, providing administrative and logistical support to tenant units, support to active and reserve units from all services in training at Fort Drum, and planning and support for the mobilization and training of almost 80,000 troops annually

Miscellaneous:

George Schaeffer graduated from Amherst Central High School in 1959 / Taking Food Service Administration



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courses in 1963 at Erie County Technical Institute (Erie Community College) / After his military service, Schaeffer went into food sales with the Beech-Nut Foods Company and then went on to become a District Manager for Durkee Foods / Retiring in the mid 1990's, he became a leader in the Western New York Restaurant Association / Schaeffer later became a Potter / Schaeffer served on the Erie Community College Culinary Art Technology Advisory Board and received a Distinguished Alumni Award from ECC in 1993 / George Schaeffer was crowned Buffalo's first "Wing King" in 1984 when he won the inaugural Buffalo Chicken Wing Festival at Fantasy Island on Grand Island, winning again in 2013 in a Wing Festival competition for healthy recipes for chicken wing dips / George W. Schaeffer passed away on 9 September 2023 at the age of 81 years old

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 Air National Guard (ANG), also known as the Air Guard, is a federal military reserve force of the United States Air Force, as well as the air militia of each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands / It, along with the Army National Guard component of each state, district, commonwealth or territory, makes up the National Guard of each region as applicable / When Air National Guard units are used under the jurisdiction of the state governor, they are fulfilling their militia role / When federalized by order of the President of the United States, ANG units become an active part of the U.S. Air Force / They are jointly administered by the states and the National Guard Bureau, a joint bureau of the Army and Air Force that oversees the U.S. National Guard



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHERER**
FRED

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

SIXTH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Fred Scherer honorably served in the United States Army / Fed Scherer was assigned as a Dispatcher and stationed in Germany in the late 1950's

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Fred Scherer attended St. Mark's School and graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1951 / Scherer earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Canisius College / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Fred Scherer opened the Furniture Manor on Elmwood Avenue in Kenmore, in the early 1960s / Scherer went on to become Vice President of the local Cape Cod Furniture chain, then managed the furniture department for Jenss in Niagara Falls before acquiring the F. Scherer and Sons Furniture from his uncles in 1977 and owned the store until it closed in January 2024 / Scherer was a former member of the Sertoma Club of Buffalo and the Buffalo Executives Association / Fred Scherer passed away on 21 October 2025 at the age of 91 years old

The 6th Transportation Battalion, a key element of the U.S. Army's Transportation Corps, has a rich history of service / Constituted in 1943, the battalion has participated in significant conflicts such as World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Operation New Dawn / It has undergone various reorganizations and redesignations, reflecting its evolution from a Quartermaster Troop Transport Battalion to a Transportation Corps Truck Battalion and back again / The battalion's operations have included support in Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Germany, Wahern, Kassel, and Kuwait / It has played a crucial role in the logistics and sustainment of U.S. forces during these conflicts / The battalion's inactivation ceremony was held on 12 August 2012, marking the end of its active service / The battalion's legacy continues through its veterans and the



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Town of West Seneca, New York

ongoing efforts to preserve its history and contributions to the Army



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHEUNEMAN
ARTHUR

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHIAVI**

JOSEPH J.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph J. Schiavi honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Schiavi was stationed in Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Schiavi worked at Bethlehem Steel, Ford Stamping Plant and the Lackawanna City School District / Schiavi was a Democratic Committeeman for 30+ years and was elected Fourth Ward Council Member for the City of Lackawanna from 2004-2011, serving two terms honorably / Joseph Schiavi was a member at St. Anthony's Holy Name Society, Lake Erie Italian Club and the Matthew Glab Post #1477 / Joseph J. Schiavi passed away on 27 March 2026 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHIEDER**

DONALD E

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

"B" TROOP, 3RD BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5 Donald E. Schieder honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Donald Schieder drove and maintained reconnaissance tanks / SP5 Schieder completed CPR training while stationed in Mannheim, Germany

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)

Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany - Named after Lieutenant Colonel Wilson D. Coleman, who was killed in action in France on 30 July 1944, Coleman Barracks is a United States Army military installation located in the Sandhofen district of Mannheim, Germany / The Coleman Barracks was assigned to U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) and administered by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe (IMCOM-E) / U.S. Army Europe left Mannheim's Coleman Barracks in 2011 only to return in 2015 on what was to be a temporary basis

Miscellaneous:

Donald Schieder graduated from Seneca Vocational High School and worked as a carpet installers helper prior to entering the Army / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the US Army, Schieder went to work for the City of Buffalo and retired in July 2009 as a Maintenance Supervisor



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The 8th Cavalry Regiment is a regiment of the United States Army formed in 1866 during the American Indian Wars / The 8th Cavalry continued to serve under a number of designations, fighting in every other major US conflict since, except World War I, when it was not deployed to Europe because it was already engaged in the Punitive Expedition in Mexico from 1916 to 1920 / The regiment originally was organized as horse cavalry in 1866, a designation under US military doctrine that emphasized both light cavalry and dragoon-type mounted and dismounted fighting roles, until 1942 / It served on foot during World War II and Korea, with some elements converting to airmobile infantry for Vietnam, while others were detached and assigned to West Germany as part of an armored task force to resist any potential Soviet incursion / 3rd Squadron, 8th Cavalry served as the divisional cavalry reconnaissance squadron (administratively under the 3rd Brigade), 8th Infantry Division at Coleman Barracks in Sandhofen, Germany

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 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: SCHIFFERLE SR.
DOUGLAS M.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Douglas Michael Schifferle Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force and received training in law enforcement and attended sentry dog school

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Douglas Schifferle worked as a New York State Corrections officer for 29 years, starting at the Fishkill Correctional Facility and spent the bulk of his career in corrections at the Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, retiring in 2010 / Douglas Michael Schifferle Sr. passed away on 21 May 2022 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHILLACE**

MICHAEL H.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Michael H. Schillace honorably served in the United States Air Force

MSGT Michael Schillace retired from the U.S. Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Schillace retired from the East Aurora School System / Michael H. Schillace passed away on 9 July 2025 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHIPANI

MICHAEL D.

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:

Michael D. Schipani honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael D. Schipani passed away on 15 March 2024 at the age of 77 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHIRMER

E.

K.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

34TH ENGINEER GROUP (CONSTRUCTION)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 ARMY OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant (E-5) E. Kurt Schirmer honorably served in the United States Army / SGT E. Schirmer was assigned as a Personnel Specialist in Vietnam and attached to the 34th Engineer Group (Construction)

E. Kurt Schirmer was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 16 August 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

E. Kurt Schirmer passed away on 29 April 2022 at the age of 75 years old

The 34th Engineering Battalion originally posted at Bien Hoa and Saigon in 1967, then to Phu Loi in '198, finally re-deploying from Vinh Long in 1971

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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



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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHLENKER

JOHN

F.

Hometown: BOSTON

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

John F. Schlenker honorably served in the United States Army and the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John F. Schlenker passed away in 2025 at the age of 80 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHLIERF**

RICHARD K.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard K. Schlierf honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Schlierf was a Past Commander of the Alfred J Jurek American Legion Post #1672 and Past Commander of the Forty & Eight American Legion / Richard K. Schlierf passed away on 18 February at the age of 82 years old

La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux (English: "The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses"), commonly known as the Forty and Eight, is a patriotic organization of U.S. veterans headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana / The Forty and Eight was founded in March, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, when World War I veteran Joseph Breen and 15 other members of The American Legion came together and organized it as an honor society for the Legion / They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the Legion / The organization derives its name from the French Army box cars used to transport American soldiers to the western front during World War I / Each car had "40-8" stenciled on the side, which meant that it could carry 40 men or 8 horses / The cars were known as "forty and eights" and viewed by the men as a miserable way to travel / The new organization was thus called the Forty and Eight in an attempt to make light of the common misery they had all shared / In 1959 the Forty and Eight became independent of The American Legion when National Commander Martin B. McKneally discontinued it as an organization within the Legion for having racially discriminatory membership requirements / In 1973 the Forty and Eight modified their membership rules to prohibit discrimination / The organization required its members to also be members of the Legion until 2008 / Membership is by invitation only and open to honorably discharged veterans and active members of the Armed Forces of the United States per a 2008 change to Article IV of the national constitution / Wartime service is not required / From the beginning, the Forty and Eight only allowed men into its ranks, even though many women



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were veterans in their own right and thus, could have been eligible / But that changed at the promenade nationale in 2006, when the majority of delegates present voted to allow women into the ranks for the first time / Although the Forty and Eight is not a secret society, much of the ritual is a secret to non-members / A voyageur can disclose that they belongs to said organization, but not all of what goes on at its meetings / The Forty and Eight meeting is known as a promenade and has its own set ritual / The ceremony to initiate a new member, known as a P.G. for Poor Goof or Prisoner de Gare into the 40 & 8 is known as a "wreck" / Anyone wishing to enter The Forty and Eight must be wrecked, after which the initiate has earned the right to be referred to as a voyageur militair and a full member



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHLMAN

WAYNE

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

"B" BATTERY, 6TH BATTALION FIELD ARTILLERY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant (E-5) Wayne Fred Schlman honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Wayne Schlman was assigned as a Field Artillery Crewman

Wayne F. Schlman was inducted into the U.S. Army on 6 January 1966 and was Honorably Discharged on 21 December 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne F. Schlman was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The Field Artillery is one of the Army's combat arms, traditionally one of the three major branches (with Infantry and Armor) / It refers to those units that use artillery weapons systems to deliver surface-to-surface long range indirect fire / Indirect fire means that the projectile does not follow the line of sight to the target

The 6th Battalion was a field artillery battalion of the United States Army / The 6th Battalion Field Artillery participated in the Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase 11, 111, IV, V, VI and the Tet 69/Counteroffensive / The battalion was inactivated 16 January 1988

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



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

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

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

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: **SCHMALL**

Hometown: BUFFALO

RICHARD C.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard C. Schmall honorably served 6 years in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Schmall worked as a Machinist at Buffalo Wire Works and until his retirement in 2005, was a Bus Driver for First Student Transportation / Richard C. Schmall passed away on 16 March 2023 at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHMEICHEL

Hometown: TONAWANDA

JAN

N.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

ABLE COMPANY, 4TH BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 61ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Jan Norman Schmeichel honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Jan Schmeichel was trained as a Green Beret and served multiple tours in Vietnam over 18 months as a Light Weapons Infantryman / E-4 Schmeichel was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service and was awarded two Purple Hearts for wounds suffered during combat operations

Jan Schmeichel received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 20 October 1967

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Jan Schmeichel retired as a Pipe Fitter from Dupont / Schmeichel was a member of the Masons, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Band of



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Brothers and dedicated 53 years volunteering with the Boy Scouts and Explorers / Jan Norman Schmeichel passed away on 3 February 2023 at the age of 77 years old

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 61st Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment of the United States Army traditionally associated with the 5th Infantry Division / The regiment's campaign honors include the Vietnam War, where it took part in Operation Montana Mauler on the Khe Sanh plateau in 1969, and the United States invasion of Panama in 1989 / The 1st Battalion of the 61st Infantry Regiment is one of the Basic Combat Training (BCT) units within the US Army / The 61st "Roadrunners" are located in Fort Jackson, South Carolina / There are six companies, Alpha "Gators", Bravo "Bulldogs", Charlie "Roughnecks", Delta "Dragons", Echo "War Eagles", and Foxtrot "Phantoms" with four platoons in each Company

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 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



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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

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: **SCHMIDT**

MICHAEL E.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (KOREA)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (HAND GRENADE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Michael Edward Schmidt honorably served in the United States Army / Michael Schmidt was deployed to South Korea for 13 months as an Armorer/Supply Specialist

Michael Schmidt was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 12 April 1973 with reserve obligation ending 26 January 1976

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Michael Schmidt worked and retired as a Pipefitter at Local Union 4, Buffalo, New York / Michael Schmidt was a member of the Patriotic Guard Rider for over 10 years / Michael Edward Schmidt passed away on 5 March 2025

The Armorer Unit Supply Specialist, is a vital component of the US Army / They play an important role in maintaining weapons, ensuring they are in good working condition, and ready to be used at all times / The



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Armorer Specialist is responsible for inspecting and repairing firearms, from handguns to heavy machine guns

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

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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: **SCHMIDT**
RON **D.**

Hometown: CLARENCE

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ron D. Schmidt honorably served in the United States Army / Ron Schmidt was drafted into the U.S. Army and after basic training in Ft. Dix, New Jersey, Schmidt was stationed in Germany for 2 years / Ron Schmidt was assigned as a Truck Driver, driving the Army's deuce-and-a-half trucks

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Ron Schmidt graduated from Burgard Vocational High School, earning a degree in Aviation Mechanics / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Ron Schmidt worked at various management roles, eventually retiring from Home Depot / Ron D. Schmidt passed away on 17 January 2026



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHMITZ II**

RICHARD W.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard W. Schmitz II honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Schmitz was a retired Buffalo Police Officer after serving 34 years on the Police Force / Richard Schmitz was a member and former Commander of the American Legion Post #1346 / Richard W. Schmitz II passed away on 2 March 2022 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Saint Stephens Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHOEN**
JOSEPH

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:

Joseph Schoen honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Schoen was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHOENE**

GARY R.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: LTC

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 2002

Unit / Squadron:

342ND FSB, COMPANY "C"

Medals / Citations:

LIBERTY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Gary R. Schoene honorably served in the United States Air Force / LT COL Gary Schoene served active duty in the Air Force from 1972 through 1975, as a Doctor of Dental Medicine / Lieutenant Colonel Gary R. Schoene, joined the New York Air Reserve National Guard in 1976 and was attached to the 342nd Forward Support Battalion (FSB), Company "C" / Lt. Col. Schoene served in the NYANG until his retirement in 2002

Base Assignments:

Keesler Air Force Base - Biloxi, Mississippi - Keesler Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Biloxi, a city along the Gulf Coast in Harrison County, Mississippi, United States / The base is named in honor of aviator 2d Lt Samuel Reeves Keesler Jr., a Mississippi native killed in France during the First World War / The base is home of Headquarters, Second Air Force (2 AF) and the 81st Training Wing (81 TW) of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) / The base has specialized in ground trade training since its opening in 1941 during World War II / When the War Department activated Keesler Field in June 1941, not only was Keesler getting a technical training center, but it would be getting one of the Army's newest replacement, or basic training centers / The first shipment of recruits arrived at Keesler Field on 21 August 1941 / Many stayed at Keesler to become airplane and engine mechanics, while others transferred to aerial gunnery or aviation cadet schools / Keesler continued to focus upon specialized training in Consolidated B-24 Liberator maintenance until mid-1944 / Presently, Keesler is the home to CNATTU Keesler (Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit), a training unit for U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps enlisted personnel receiving training at Keesler, such as enlisted meteorology training, with their Air Force counterparts

Niagara Falls Air Base - Niagara Falls, New York - Established in 1955, Niagara Falls Air Base is an Air Force



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Reserve Command military installation and is located adjacent to Niagara Falls International Airport, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base / In July 1968, approximately 400 members of the 107th were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, for almost a year attached to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing / Three Army Reserve units call the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station home / All three are located in the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) which was built in 2013 / The units are the 277th Quartermaster Company (Petroleum), 1982nd Forward Surgical Team (FST) and Alpha Company, 865th Combat Support Hospital (CSH)

Connecticut Street Armory and Masten Avenue Armory - Buffalo, New York - The armories have been the site of branches of the New York State National Guard for more than a century / The Connecticut Street Armory, opened in 1899, was the largest armory in the United States at the time of its completion / The 74th Regiment remained at the Connecticut Street Armory until 1920, though its Veterans Association still meets at the building to this day / In 1982, a fire damaged the back half of the armory and that part was rebuilt / Through the decades, different regiments have occupied Connecticut Street / Currently several National Guard regiments occupy the building including: 153rd Troop Command Brigade; Co. C, 427th Brigade Support Battalion; 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and the 152nd Engineer Support Company / The Masten Armory was constructed between 1902 and 1907 for the 65th Regiment of the New York National Guard and was even larger than Connecticut Street Armory / The Masten Armory is host to: Headquarters: 42nd Infantry Division, Detachment 1; 2nd Squadron, Troop C, 101st Cavalry and Co. D, 427th Brigade Support Battalion

Miscellaneous:

Gary R. Schoene graduated from Lake Forest College (Lake Forest, Illinois) and enrolled at University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, earning a degree as a Doctor of Dental Medicine / Dr. Schoene opened a dental practice on Center Road in West Seneca in 1976 while serving in the National Guard / Immediately after the terror attacks on 11 September 2001, Dr. Schoene and his 342nd Medical Unit were dispatched to New York City to provide cleanup assistance / Dr. Gary R. Schoene retired from his dental practice in 2020 / Gary Schoene was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCHOLL

THOMAS

G.

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:

Thomas G. Scholl honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Scholl graduated from Burgard High School in 1961 / Scholl attended Buffalo State University, earning a Master's Degree in Education / Scholl taught Graphic Arts at South Park High School, retiring in 1999 / Thomas G. Scholl passed away on 28 August 2024 at the age of 81 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHROEDER**
JOHN

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

2ND BATTALION, 15TH INFANTRY RANGERS, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant John Schroeder honorably served in the United States Army / SGT John Schroeder was deployed to Vietnam as part of the Army Rangers

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Schroeder is past Commander of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post #6247, Orchard Park and past Commander of American Legion Post #567 / Schroeder is a member of AMVETS Post #219 and Vietnam Veterans Post #77 / John Schroeder was instrumental in the Orchard Park Memorial Day Parade and the Veterans Memorial Park revitalization project

The 15th Infantry Rangers are an elite unit specializing in reconnaissance and direct-action missions / The Rangers are trained for rapid deployment and operate in diverse environments, including urban and wilderness settings / The unit emphasizes physical fitness, tactical proficiency, and teamwork among its members / Rangers often engage in joint operations with other military branches and allied forces / Their motto, "Rangers Lead the Way," reflects their leadership role in combat situations

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



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

The 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 (ARCOM) is a mid-level award given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by acts of heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service / It was established in 1945 and is awarded retroactively to those who served after December 6, 1941 / / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

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



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



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Name: **SCHUELER**
ARTHUR L.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch:

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

BATTERY "A", 6TH BATTALION, 61ST AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY (ADA) EBT 5

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Arthur Leroy Schueler honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Arthur Schueler was deployed to Vietnam as a Power Plant Operator / Corporal Schueler was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in during combat operations

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Arthur L. Schueler was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The 61st Air Defense Artillery Regiment is an air defense artillery regiment in the United States Army / The 61st Air Defense Artillery was constituted and activated at Fort Moultrie 9 March 1918 as the 61st Artillery (CAC) from existing Regular and National Guard companies / It was redesignated for the 61st Battalion (Antiaircraft) on 10 June 1922. It was redesignated for the 61st Coast Artillery Regiment on 15 December 1939 / It was redesignated for the 61st Artillery Regiment on 19 December 1958 and was redesignated for the 61st Air



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Defense Artillery Regiment effective 1 September 1971

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the US Military / It may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone

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

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: **SCHULTE**

RONALD

R.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Ronald R. Schulte honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Schulte graduated from Seneca Vocational High School in June 1955 and attended the Advanced Training Center - Welding School in 1980 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Schulte worked as a Millwright for Bethlehem Steel, Inc. in Lackawanna, New York from 1963 -1980 / Ronald Schulte joined Frontier Foundries Inc. in Niagara Falls, NY, from 1980 to 1984, before spending over three decades at Spaulding Composites Inc. in Tonawanda, New York, from 1984 until his retirement, where his responsibilities at these firms included repair work, machinery installation, and maintenance that utilized a vast array of tools and techniques / Schulte was a Group Leader of the Quality Improvement Team and was an instrumental member of maintenance-focused committees / Ronald R. Schulte passed away on 6 March 2026 at the age of 87 years old



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Name: **SCHULTZ**

LAWRENCE A.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS SARATOGA (CV-6)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lawrence Alan Schultz honorably served in the United States Navy / Lawrence Schultz served as an Aerial Photographer on board the USS Saratoga

After a fire aboard the ship in 1951 claimed the lives of seven sailors, Schultz was assigned to document the still-smoldering engine compartment for damage assessment / Lawrence Schultz later collated aerial photographs of Cuba into maps that were used in planning during the Cuban Missile Crisis

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence Schultz attended the University of Buffalo prior to military service / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Schultz returned to the University of Buffalo, earning his Bachelor's Degree and Law Degree / Schultz spent six years with the Law Firm of Lipsitz, Green, Fahringer, Roll Schuller and James, specializing in appellate law / In 1996, Lawrence Schultz started his own law practice guiding appeals for other law firms / Schultz retired from active law practice in 2020 / Schultz served on the Appellate Committee for the Bar Association of Erie County and wrote a regular column on appellate law for the Daily Record of Rochester / Schultz was a founding member of the Orchard Park Community Church and active with the Boy Scouts Lawrence Alan Schultz passed away on 3 September 2023 at the age of 82 years old

USS Saratoga (CV/CVA/CVB-60), was the second of four Forrestal-class supercarriers built for the United States Navy in the 1950s / Saratoga was the sixth U.S. Navy ship, and the second aircraft carrier, to be named for the Battles of Saratoga in the American Revolutionary War / Commissioned on 14 April 1956, she spent most of her career in the Mediterranean, but also participated during the Vietnam War, receiving one battle star for her



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service / While deployed with the Sixth Fleet on 23 January 1961, a serious fire broke out in Saratoga's number two machinery space which took seven lives / The fire, believed caused by a ruptured fuel oil line, was brought under control by the crew / One of her last operational duties was to participate in Operation Desert Storm / Saratoga was decommissioned on 20 August 1994, and was stored at Naval Station Newport in Newport, Rhode Island / The USS Saratoga was stricken from Naval records on 20 August 1994 and sent to Brownsville, Texas, to be scrapped / Scrapping was completed by early 2019

Name: SCHULTZ

RAYMOND P.

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:

Raymond Paul Schultz honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Schultz retired from the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital of Buffalo / Raymond Paul Schultz passed away on 30 October 2025 at the age of 85 years old



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Name: **SCHULTZ**

ROBERT

C.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address: 296 LAKE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Robert Charles Schultz honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Robert Schultz was deployed to Vietnam on 5 April 1967 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / SGT Robert Schultz was Killed In Action on 12 February 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

On 12 February 1968, elements of the 27th Infantry engaged an enemy force 5 kilometers northeast of Hoc Mon in Gia Dinh Province / The battle lasted throughout the day, with four men being killed in action and many more wounded / One of the casualties was SGT Robert Schulz who was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Schultz was a 1964 graduate of Lancaster Central High School / Schultz attended Erie County Technical Institute before enlisting in the U.S. Army in October 1966 / Robert Charles Schultz was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lancaster Rural Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Robert Charles Schultz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39e, Line 12



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

The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment, entered the Vietnam War in January, 1966 / During their five-year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned two valorous unit citations, and was one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The regiment participated in Operation Junction City and fought during the Tet Offensive and the May Offensive / The regiment finally returned to Hawaii in April, 1971 / More recently the regiment deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq

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

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

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to



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infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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

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

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

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

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



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Name: SCHULTZ

THOMAS E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: LTJG

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1960

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Lieutenant (j.g.) Thomas E. Schultz honorably served in the United States Navy / LT Thomas Schultz was stationed in Guam as a Naval Aviation Observer and flew tens of thousands of hours on reconnaissance

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Schultz attended St. Teresa's School and attended the second Freshman class at Bishop Timon High School, playing varsity basketball and baseball / Schultz graduated from Canisius College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration where he played baseball for four years leading the Canisius "Griffins" to the Little Three Championships / Thomas Schultz enlisted in the Navy and entered the Officer Candidate School in 1956 and was commissioned a Lieutenant (j.g.) / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Thomas Schultz worked for the General Motors Tonawanda Engine Plant as an internal auditor, cost accountant and analyst programmer / In 1967, Schultz became Supervisor of Data Processing for Conax Corp, followed by the position of Data Processing Manager for Curtiss-Wright Corp / After two years, Schultz was appointed Senior Electronic Data Processing Manager for the Erie County Comptroller's Office / In 1975, he joined Erie Community College as a Systems Analyst, retiring in 1992 as the Director of Data Systems / As an ordained Deacon, Schultz was a Chaplain at Buffalo General Medical Center and was appointed to the Family Life Department of the Buffalo Diocesan Office / Thomas E. Schultz passed away on 5 January 2024 at the age of 89 years old



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Name: **SCHUMANN**
DANIEL

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

11TH BATTALION, 10TH INFANTRY DIVISION
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Daniel Schumann honorably served in the United States Army / Drafted into the Army, Schumann was deployed to Vietnam and stationed at Camp Red Ball, working as a courier transporting troops, mail and documents all over the country / Sergeant was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service / Schumann was Honorably Discharged after 18 months of military service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After military service, Daniel Schumann worked many years at Kodak in Rochester, New York, before moving to Florida

The 10th Infantry Regiment is a regiment in the United States Army first formed in 1855 / Formerly a standard line regiment that served the United States in the American Civil War and again in World War II and into the Cold War, the 10th Infantry Regiment is now a garrison regiment housing training cadre and trainees undergoing Basic Combat Training with the United States Army / Since its inception, the 10th Infantry Regiment has been famous for its mobility and lethality both of which it displayed in conflicts ranging from the Civil War to WWII / The Regiment's rich battle history and success in war directly correlates with its historically high-quality leadership

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into hostile areas with a U.S. Department of Defense mandate to be "on-call to fight anytime,



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anywhere" at "the knife's edge of technology and readiness / Primarily based at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / In April 1965, the "All-Americans" invaded the Dominican Republic / Spearheaded by the 3rd Brigade, the 82nd deployed in Operation Power Pack / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Hue – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months

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



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Name: SCHWEGLER, JR.

EDWARD L.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Edward L. Schwegler, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward L. Schwegler, Jr. passed away on 21 April 2022 at the age of 73 years old



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Name: **SCINTA**
RUSSELL

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Russell Scinta honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Russell Scinta was a gifted musician and engineer by trade / Russell Scinta passed away on 19 May 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Name: **SCIOLI**

TIMOTHY J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

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:

Timothy Jack Scioli honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Timothy Scioli retired as a Lieutenant with the Buffalo Police Department and was the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the US Attorneys office in Buffalo / Scioli was a volunteer at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center / Timothy Jack Scioli passed away on 22 January 2026 at the age of 82 years old



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Name: **SCOTT
BARRY**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: MARILYN DRIVE

- Vietnam Era**
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-6

Year Entered: 1973

Year Discharged: 1980

Unit / Squadron:

USS CANOPUS (AS-34)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer First-Class Barry Scott honorably served in the United States Navy / PO1 Barry Scott received his Navy training in Electronics and maintained seagoing and landbased communication equipment / Scott was stationed in Rota, Spain for three years and worked on submarine sonar gear

Base Assignments:

Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Illinois - Naval Station Great Lakes (NAVSTA Great Lakes) is the home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Important tenant commands include the Recruit Training Command, Training Support Center and Navy Recruiting District Chicago / Naval Station Great Lakes is the largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy

Naval Air Station (NAS), Jacksonville, Florida - During World War I, the area now occupied by NAS Jacksonville, was named Camp Joseph E. Johnston and was commissioned on 15 October 1917 / The United States Army trained quartermasters and the center included more than 600 buildings; by 1918 Camp Johnston was the largest of all Quartermaster mobilization and training camps / On 15 October 1940, Naval Air Station Jacksonville was officially commissioned and became the first part of the Jacksonville Navy complex that would eventually include NAS Cecil Field and Naval Station Mayport / During the late 1940s, the jet age was dawning and in 1948 the Navy's first jet carrier air groups and squadrons came to NAS Jacksonville / By April 1949, NAS Jacksonville was the East Coast's aircraft capital, with more naval aircraft stationed here than at any other naval base from Nova Scotia to the Caribbean / In 1973, with the assignment of Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing One, the station's primary mission became antisubmarine warfare / In 1970, a major reorganization of the Naval Reserve resulted in three separate Naval Air Reserve flying squadrons being activated at NAS Jacksonville / A piece of history and Navy and Marine Corps tradition was lost in 1986 when the last unit of Marines left NAS Jacksonville



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/ Marine Barracks Jacksonville had been one of the first groups to arrive at the base in 1940, but left due to mission realignments and a reduction in Marines authorized for Marine Corps Security Force duties at U.S. Naval installations / Naval Air Station Jacksonville is one of the Navy's finest installations and is the recipient of the 2012 Presidential Excellence Award and 2013 Commander, Navy Installations Command Excellence Award

Naval Air Station (NAS), Rota, Spain - Naval Station Rota, also known as NAVSTA Rota, is a Spanish naval base commanded by a Spanish Rear Admiral and fully funded by the United States of America / Located in Rota in the Province of Cádiz, near the town of El Puerto de Santa María, NAVSTA Rota is the largest American military community in Spain and houses US Navy and US Marine Corps personnel / There are also small US Army and US Air Force contingents on the base / NAVSTA Rota has been in use since 1953 when Spanish dictator Francisco Franco strengthened relations with the United States in order to improve local economies / The Chief of Naval Operations deployed Submarine Squadron 16 (SUBRON 16) to Rota on 28 January 1964 and in the early 1970s, the submarines assigned to SUBRON 16 were completing conversion to the Poseidon missile / At its peak size in the early 1980s, NAVSTA Rota was home to 16,000 sailors and their families, to include two permanently forward deployed aviation squadrons, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2) and Fleet Logistics Support Squadron TWENTY TWO (VR-22). VQ-2 was based at Rota from 1959 until 2005

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Charleston, South Carolina - Naval Support Activity Charleston, originally designated Naval Weapons Station Charleston, is a base of the United States Navy located on the west bank of the Cooper River, in the cities of Goose Creek and Hanahan South Carolina / The base was commissioned on 5 November 1941 as the United States Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) and was used as an ammunition collection and distribution point during World War II / During the mid-1950s, the installation was expanded with the Northside area called the Naval Weapons Station Annex and charged with new duties that included the handling of guided missiles and the docking, servicing and loading of submarines / In 1960 the Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic (POMFLANT) was constructed within the base to enable the handling of Terrier, Tartar, and Hawk, missiles / On 30 September 1981, the Station acquired the nearby Charleston Army Depot and the station's name was changed to Naval Weapons Station South / In 1995 POMFLANT was decommissioned and the fleet ballistic missile operations moved to Kings Bay, Georgia / The Naval Nuclear Power Training Command school opened in 1998 and today, is a training center, with the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC), Nuclear Power Training Unit, Propulsion Facility, and Border Patrol satellite academy

Miscellaneous:

Barry Scott graduated from Ellicottville High School and attended SUNY Fredonia prior to entering the Navy / After his Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Scott used his Navy electronic training to find employment in the private sector, retiring from Windstream Communications as a Design Engineer / Barry Scott is a member of the West Seneca Lions and American Legion Post #735

Electronics technicians are responsible for electronic equipment used to send and receive messages, detect enemy planes and ships, and determine target distances / They maintain, repair, and calibrate all electronic equipment used for communications, detection tracking, identification, and navigation / Specially qualified electronics technicians are employed onboard nuclear-powered ships to operate the nuclear reactor and maintain its control subsystems

USS Canopus (AS-34) was a Simon Lake-class submarine tender of the United States Navy, operational from 1965



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to 1994 / The Canopus was commissioned on 4 November 1965 and sailed for the Caribbean on 7 January 1966 / Stationed at Holy Loch, Scotland until November 1975, the Canopus was instrumental in establishing several new maintenance concepts while completing, on schedule, every submarine refit during the 67 months at Holy Loch / During the last year at Holy Loch, Canopus received numerous awards including the Ney Award for the best large mess afloat, the second consecutive Battle Efficiency "E", the CINCLANTFLT Golden Anchor Award for personnel retention, and the Navy Unit Commendation for her role in the first FBM Submarine Extended Refit Period / In 1976, Canopus underwent an extensive refit at Charleston Naval Shipyard and returned to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for refresher training / Canopus returned to Rota, Spain in December 1976 / In 1984, Canopus underwent an overhaul at Charleston Naval Shipyard, which lasted until 1985 / After a short stay at Charleston, Canopus sailed in July 1985 to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia/ The USS Canopus was decommissioned from active service on 7 October 1994 and scrapped in 2010

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: **SCOTT**

BRUCE R.

Hometown: NORTH COLLINS

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:

Bruce R. Scott honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bruce Scott retired after a 42-year career with the Buffalo News as the Publishing Systems Manager / Bruce Scott was a Scout Master for Troop 429 in North Collins during the 1980's / Scott was one of the founders of the North Collins Tee Ball League / Bruce Scott moved to Chesterfield, Virginia after his retirement and worked as a School Bus Driver for the Chesterfield School District / Bruce R Scott passed away on 1 April 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCOTT**

DENNIS L.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 465 FOURTH STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, M COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Dennis Lee Scott honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Dennis Scott was deployed to Vietnam in March 1967 as a Rifleman / LCPL Dennis Lee was Killed In Action on 27 December 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Than Tham Khe, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During Operation Badger Tooth, the battalion was operating in the vicinity of Thon Tham Khe, on the coast, 13 kilometers north northeast of Hai Lang / The Marines were engaged by a large hostile force and LCPL Dennis Lee died as a result of gunshot wounds to the body from hostile rifle fire / The Marines had 49 men killed during the firefight

LCPL Dennis Scott arrived in Vietnam in March 1967 and was hit by shell fragments in September, hospitalized, and returned to duty in October 1967 / Lee was hit in the same leg in October 1967, but returned to duty

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Scott was a graduate of School #1 and McKinley Vocational High School / Scott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1966 / Dennis Lee Scott was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Dennis Lee Scott is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32e, Line 82

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

Lance Corporal Dennis Lee Scott was also awarded the:

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCRITCHFIELD

DAVID A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 11 ARNOLD STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal David Allen Scritchfield honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL David Scritchfield was deployed to Vietnam in July 1967 as a Mortarman / LCPL David Scritchfield was Killed In Action on 11 September 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During the month of September 1967, the Battalion was conducting assigned combat operations in the vicinity of Da Nang in Quang Nam Province / On 11 September 1967, a sniper fired on a security team while communications wire was being installed along Highway 1 near the Thanh Quit river in Dien Ban District / LCPL David Scritchfield was hit and killed by the hostile sniper fire

Before being deployed to Vietnam, LCPL Scritchfield was stationed in Guantanamo, Cuba for six months

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Scritchfield was born in Virginia and moved to Buffalo / Scritchfield attended School 52 and Lafayette High School before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 5 January 1966 / David Allen Scritchfield was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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David Allen Scritchfield is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 57

A Mortarman is a soldier who operates a firing device called a mortar / Mortarmen in the U.S. Marines are the unit that's mainly responsible for the tactical employment of the 60 mm light mortar and the 81 mm medium mortar

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

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a



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ground combat element in support of operation

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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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCULLY**

BRYAN

P.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

ABLE COMPANY, 54TH SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Bryan Patrick Scully honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Bryan Scully was assigned as a Teletype Operator during his 12-month deployment to South Vietnam, attached to Able Company, 54th Signal Battalion

SP4 Bryan Scully received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 12 January 1967

Base Assignments:

Fort Lewis, Washington - Fort Lewis is a United States Army base located 9.1 miles south-southwest of Tacoma, Washington / Fort Lewis began as Camp Lewis in 1917 and named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States, consisting of 87,000 acres / From 1942 to 1943, 42 Japanese, German, and Italian Americans were held at Fort Lewis as part of the government's "enemy alien" internment program during World War II / Fort Lewis was merged with McChord Air Force Base on February 1, 2010, to form Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Miscellaneous:

Bryan Patrick Scully passed away on 27 February 2023 at the age of 80 years old while in Winterville, Georgia / Bryan Patrick Scully is interred at Saint Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Radio and Teletype Operators are proficient operating radioteletype, facsimile, and data intercept and recording equipment, as well as non-Morse intercept and associated equipment / The operator also assists in the



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establishment of operational sites and maintains the technical data base in support of collection operations / Operators supervise non-Morse intercept activities and allocate collection resources per mission priorities

The 54th Signal Company was constituted 26 November 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 54th Signal Repair Company and participated during the battle Ryukyus during World War II / The Company was redesignated 2 November 1953 as the 54th Signal Company and participated in several battles in Vietnam

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: SCZEPANIK

JOHN E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John E. "Murph" Sczepanik honorably served in the United States Air Force and deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John E. "Murph" Sczepanik passed away on 12 April 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SEEGEL**
JAMES

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:

James Seegel honorably served in the United States Military / James Seegel 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: **SEGOOL**

ARTHUR F.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1959

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, U.S. ARMY SECURITY AGENCY (USASA) BATTALION 8316

Medals / Citations:

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Arthur Francis Segool honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Arthur Segool was stationed in South Korea for 15 months and served as a Morse Code Interceptor

While serving in Korea, Specialist Segool discovered an old Army tent overloaded with orphaned children / They sent word back to the US and raised money, which they used to build an orphanage

Arthur Segool was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 4 September 1959

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Arthur Francis Segool passed away on 4 November 2017

The United States Army Security Agency (ASA) was the United States Army's signals intelligence branch from 1945 to 1976 / Composed of soldiers trained in radio communication, cryptography, military intelligence and linguists trained at the Defense Language Institute located at the Presidio of Monterey, California, the ASA was tasked with monitoring and interpreting military communications of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and their allies and client states around the world / The agency was established after World War II, when the Soviet Union and the US had been allies / In the postwar years, after the Soviet Union and communist governments gained power in eastern Europe and China, they became enemies in the Cold War between Communist states and allies, and the US and western nations / The ASA was directly subordinate to the National Security Agency, and all major field stations had NSA technical representatives present



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Town of West Seneca, New York

An Overseas Service Ribbon is a service military award of the United States military which recognizes those service members who have performed military tours outside the borders of the United States of America / There are different versions of the Overseas Service Ribbons for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard / Both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines receive the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon

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: **SEGOOL**

ROBERT A.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL (2)

PURPLE HEART (5)

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION WITH ONE SERVICE STAR

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (4)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL WITH 1 SERVICE STAR

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARSKMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Robert A. Segool honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PO Robert Segool was a US Marine Corps First Recon and Navy veteran of the Vietnam War / Segool was a decorated Marine with 2 silver Stars, four Bronze Stars with Combat Valor and 5 Purple Hearts / Segool was the original founding member of the Studies and Observations Group (SOG) / Robert Segool earned 67 medals during his service to our country

While serving as a petty officer in Vietnam in 1969, Robert Segool's Marine unit was ambushed while on patrol / Segool put his life on the line to save his fellow Marines and ward off a second enemy attack / Robert Segool was awarded one of his Bronze Stars for his heroic action

Petty Officer Robert Segool was awarded one of his Bronze Stars for heroic achievement on the early morning of 6 September 1969 while voluntarily serving as a member of a five-man patrol from Civic Action Platoon 2-7-5, III Marine Amphibious Force in the Republic of Vietnam / When his patrol, whose mission was the security of Bien Ky Hamlet, was ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force and pinned down by a barrage of rocket, mortar, and automatic weapons fire, Petty Officer Segool immediately began to lay down a base of fire and directed the fire of marines near his position / Observing a seriously wounded Marine about to run into the path of intense fire, Petty officer Segool left his position of cover, wrestled the man to the ground and, although wounded himself, managed to assist in eventually removing the Marine to the safety of the patrol base / Petty Officer Segool later aided in halting a second enemy attack by manning a machine gun and by directing the fire of helicopters arriving on the scene / By his heroic actions throughout, he was instrumental in saving the life of



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a Marine and in averting an attack on Bien Ky Hamlet

Petty Officer Robert Segool was assigned to the Combine Action Platoon (CAP) with a mission to protect the Bien Ky Hamlet from Communist infiltration, and given the nickname "Frenchy" / The battle lasted over four hours and Segool, along with four others took on a 25 to 30-member North Vietnamese heavy weapons platoon / Despite being injured and exhausted, when he returned to the base, he volunteered to go back and help stop the advancing enemies / When evacuation helicopters and gunships arrived he exposed himself to enemy fire and helped to direct the gunfire causing the enemy to retreat, selflessly refusing to be Medevacked because they were short of men

While in Vietnam, Petty Officer Robert "Frenchy" Segool did much more than help his fellow soldiers; he also felt the need to take care of the South Vietnamese who were displaced due to the war / Frenchy did what he could to care for children who lost their families or were abandoned, including a young boy named Chue / Segool sent letters to his U.S. Marine Corps unit in Vietnam trying to locate the young boy named Chue that he saved in Vietnam, but was unable to locate the boy / Bob Segool did have an opportunity to sponsor two refugees from South Vietnam who came to live with him in Western New York

Robert Segool received his Honorable Discharge from active duty on 8 January 1970 and transferred in the US Navy Reserves, finishing his military service on 16 April 1974

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Segool became the Chaplain of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 187, took the lead in the effort to create the Purple Heart Memorial Buffalo Naval & Military Park in downtown Buffalo, and worked with Russell Salvatore on the creation of the Purple Heart monument now located in Patriots and Heroes Park on Transit Rd. in Lancaster, New York / Robert A. Segool passed away on 26 March 2019

The Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG) was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War / Composed of Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Recon Marines, Air Commandos, and their indigenous allies, SOG primarily conducted reconnaissance and direct action operations, such as ambushes, in South Vietnam and across the border

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



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

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

The 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 Unit Citation is a formal, honorary mention by high authority of a military unit's specific and outstanding performance, notably in battle / Similar mentions can also be made for individual soldiers / Alternatively or concurrently, the unit can be awarded an honorary title, a mention on the flag or a decoration

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SEITZ

PAUL E.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

H AND H COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 70TH ARMOR REGIMENT, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

H AND H COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 127TH ARMOR, NY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Paul E. Seitz honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Paul Seitz was assigned as a Law Clerk and Clerk Typist / SP-4 Seitz served 2 years on active duty and then served with the New York Army National Guard

Paul Seitz was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 23 October 1974 and received an Honorable Discharge from the New York Army National Guard on 5 November 1975

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul E. Seitz passed away on 30 July 2021

The 70th Armor Regiment is an armored (tank) unit of the United States Army. It was constituted as the 70th Tank Battalion in July 1940, an independent tank battalion intended to provide close support to infantry units / The battalion supported the 4th Infantry Division on Utah Beach during the D-Day landings in France, and fought with the 4th Infantry Division through the remainder of World War II / The 70th Tank Battalion was one of the first three tank battalions to deploy to Korea in the Korean War, where it saw significant action in, primarily with the 1st Cavalry Division / The 70th Armor Regiment was designated a parent organization as part of the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS) in 1963 / On 9 October 2012, the last active battalion of the 70th Armor Regiment was inactivated / The 4th Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment was inactivated along with its parent headquarters, the 170th Infantry Brigade (Separate) in Baumholder, Germany



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The 127th Armor traces its origins as far back as 1838, to a company also known as the "Buffalo City Guards" / The 127th Tank Battalion (formed 1950) reorganized and redesignated as 127th Armor, a CARS parent regiment, on 16 March 1959 / The regiment then consisted of the 1st Medium Tank Battalion, an element of the 27th Armored Division (United States) / Circa 2005 the 1st Battalion was a tank unit of the 3rd Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division (United States) in Buffalo, NY

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SEMLITSCH**
RAYMOND D.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: SGT

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Raymond D. Semlitsch honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Semlitsch graduated from West Seneca High School in 1968 / Semlitsch graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from SUNY College at Buffalo in 1975, a Master's Degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland in 1979 and a Doctorate in zoology from the University of Georgia in 1984 / Before joining the faculty at the University of Missouri in the Division of Biological Sciences in 1993, Dr. Raymond Semlitsch held positions at Memphis State University and the University of Zurich, Switzerland / Dr. Semlitsch was awarded the University of Missouri's 1999 Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity, the 2008 National Wetlands Award for Science Research from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the 2011 Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists / In 2009, Dr. Semlitsch was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science / Raymond Donald Semlitsch passed away on 10 Jun 2015 at the age of 64 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SENDOR
ROBERT

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:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SENN**

WAYNE J.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY/AIR FORCE

Rank: E-3/O3

Year Entered: 1961

Year Discharged: 1976

Unit / Squadron:

U>S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Medals / Citations:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD W/2 OAK LEAF

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (SMALL ARMS)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Wayne J.C. Senn honorably served in the United States Army and the United States Air Force / PFC Wayne Senn served our nation for a total of 15 years of military duty / PFC Senn served almost 2 years of active duty in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1961-1963 as a Power Generator Specialist

PFC Wayne Senn received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 1 September 1963

In addition, Wayne J.C. Senn served in the US Air Force Active Reserves from 1965-1976 as an Executive Support Officer and Administration Officer / He received his promotion to the rank of Captain (O-3) in 1969, and he had 2 years, 9 months of foreign service in England, assigned to the Royal Air Force (RAF) Bentwaters (Air Force Strategic Command) / Captain Senn received his honorable retirement from the U.S. Air Force on 18 October 1976

Base Assignments:

Royal Air Force Bentwaters or more simply RAF Bentwaters, now known as Bentwaters Parks, is a former Royal Air Force station about 80 miles northeast of London and 10 miles east-northeast of Ipswich, near Woodbridge, Suffolk in England / Its name was taken from two cottages ('Bentwaters Cottages') that had stood on the site of the main runway during its construction in 1943 / The station was used by the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War, and by the United States Air Force (USAF) during the Cold War, being the primary home for the 81st Fighter Wing under various designations from 1951 to 1993 / For many years the 81st Fighter Wing also



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operated RAF Woodbridge, with Bentwaters and Woodbridge airfields being known by the Americans as the "Twin Bases" / Currently, Bentwaters airfield is inactive as a military facility

Miscellaneous:

Wayne J.C. Senn passed away on 21 February 2024 at the age of 85 years old

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was authorized on 16 March 1802 and is a direct reporting unit and engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works / The day-to-day activities of the three mission areas are administered by a lieutenant general known as the chief of engineers/commanding general / The chief of engineers commands the Engineer Regiment, comprising combat engineer, rescue, construction, dive, and other specialty units, and answers directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army. Combat engineers, sometimes called sappers, form an integral part of the Army's combined arms team and are found in all Army service components: Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve / Their duties are to breach obstacles; construct fighting positions, fixed/floating bridges, and obstacles and defensive positions; place and detonate explosives; conduct route clearance operations; emplace and detect landmines; and fight as provisional infantry when required / For the military construction mission, the chief of engineers is directed and supervised by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for installations, environment, and energy, whom the President appoints and the Senate confirms / Military construction relates to construction on military bases and worldwide installations

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

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

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

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.



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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: SERENA

NORMAN L.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Norman L. Serena honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Norman Serena was a retired Electrician from General Mills / Norman L. Serena passed away on 11 April 2025 at the age of 79 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SERWINOWSKI**

RICHARD E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 1610 MAIN STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Richard Earl Serwinowski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Richard Serwinowski was deployed to Vietnam in November 1966 as a Supply Administrative Man / CPL Richard Serwinowski was Killed In Action on 6 September 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Vinh Huy, 12km SW of Thang Binh, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Serwinowski was a graduate of St. Joseph's Cathedral Elementary School / Serwinowski attended Bishop Fallon High School and graduated from Lafayette High School before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1966 / Richard Earl Serwinowski was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Richard Earl Serwinowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 17

A Supply Administrative Man handles technical duties related to supply management, ensuring that essential materials are available when needed / Their responsibilities include stock control, inventory management, and



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handling excess or surplus items / Other duties include authorizing stock items and categories for stocked and nonstocked items and establishing the criteria for consumable secondary items

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

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisen-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June 1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SERWON**
EDWARD W.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CV/CVA/CVS-39)

Medals / Citations:

OCCUPATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Edward W. Serwon honorably served in the United States Navy / Edward Serwon in the US Navy for 24 months, from July of 1954 to July of 1956 aboard the USS Lake Champlain

In 1976, Edward Serwon entered the Army Reserves as a Practical Nurse, serving for 5 years / Serwon entered the Army Reserve Development Programs and advanced to Bio Med Equipment Specialist, serving for 8 years and 4 months and earning the rank of Sergeant First Class / In 1990, Mr. Serwon was called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, serving from 21 November 1990 to 5 April 1991, in Southwest Asia / He was honorably discharged after 23 years of service to our nation in 1996 at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward W. Serwon passed away on 7 December 2024 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

USS Lake Champlain (CV/CVA/CVS-39) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers completed during or shortly after World War II for the United States Navy / She was the second US Navy ship to bear the name, and was named for the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812 and commissioned on 3 June 1945 / Lake Champlain did not participate in World War II, but did serve as a transport, bringing troops home from Europe as part of Operation Magic Carpet / Like many of her sister ships, she was decommissioned shortly after the end of the war, but was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s, and redesignated as an attack carrier (CVA) /



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She participated in the Korean War but spent the rest of her career in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Mediterranean / In the late 1950s, she was redesignated as an antisubmarine carrier (CVS) / As flagship of Carrier Task Force 77 (TF 77), the Champlain sailed from Yokosuka on 11 June 1953 and arrived off western Korea on 14 June 1953 / The carrier's air group immediately launched sorties cratering runways; assaulting enemy troops; attacking trenches, bunkers, gun positions; and giving close air support to hard pressed ground forces / Her planes also escorted B-29 Superfortress heavy bombers on their way to enemy targets / Lake Champlain continued to strike at the enemy until the truce was signed on 27 July 1953 / Relieved by Kearsarge on 11 October 1953, Lake Champlain headed toward the South China Sea arriving Singapore on 24 October / Bidding farewell to the Pacific Ocean on 27 October 1953, she steamed toward home, touching at Colombo, Port Said, Cannes, and Lisbon before arriving Mayport, Florida, on 4 December 1953 / Lake Champlain completed her last major duty on 29 August 1965 when she served as the primary recovery ship for Gemini 5 / Shortly afterward, she sailed to Philadelphia Navy Yard, where she commenced inactivation / She was decommissioned on 2 May 1966 and was laid up in the Reserve Fleet / The 24-year-old Lake Champlain was stricken from the Navy List on 1 December 1969, and sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 28 April 1972

The Navy Occupation Service Medal was a military award of the United States Navy which was "Awarded to commemorate the services of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel in the occupation of certain territories of the enemies of the United States during World War II" and recognized those personnel who participated in the European and Asian occupation forces during, and following World War II / The medal was also bestowed to personnel who performed duty in West Berlin between 1945 and 1990

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: SEUFERT

DWIGHT

R.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Dwight R. Seufert honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dwight Seufert was a retired Town of Hamburg Police Officer / Seufert was a volunteer member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Team / Dwight R. Seufert passed away on 27 January 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHANOR, JR.

JOHN

R.

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:

John R. "Jack" Shanor, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jack Shanor the Owner and Operator of Shanor Electric Supply, Inc. / John R. "Jack" Shanor, Jr. passed away on 7 April 2022 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHATTUCK

RONALD L.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address: 217 HARTWELL ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

II FIELD FORCE, 2ND BATTALION, 13TH ARTILLERY, B BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Ronald Lawrence Shattuck honorably served in the United States Army /SGT Ronald Shattuck was deployed to Vietnam on 10 February 1968 as a Field Artillery Crewman / SGT Ronald Shattuck was Killed In Action on 30 December 1968 from wounds suffered from enemy mortar fire in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

"B" Battery was involved in direct fire support missions for the 25th Infantry Division in December 68 - January 69 / The battery was positioned at Fire Support Base Bragg II in Tay Ninh Province, and was within eyesight of Nui Ba Din, the Black Virgin Mountain / Anytime Nui Ba Din was in view of a Fire Support Base, bad events seemed to occur / Daily attacks from snipers, mortars, and .51 caliber machine guns were common / Sergeant Ron Shattuck started his tour with the Red Dragon Clan in February 1968, and was a short timer in December 1968 / Rocket and mortar fire hit FSB Bragg II on December 30, 1968 / SGT Ronald Shattuck died from wounds suffered in the mortar attack

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Shattuck attended Frontier Central School / Shattuck enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1967 after working as a service station attendant / Ronald Lawrence Shattuck was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Ronald Lawrence Shattuck is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35w, Line 10

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

The 13th Field Artillery was constituted 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army at Camp Stewart, Texas / 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery Battalion was organized in 1965 at Fort Sill OK and deployed to Vietnam under the II Field Force 23rd Artillery group

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHEEHAN

JAMES

P.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMAN BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

James P. Sheehan honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, James Sheehan worked as an Auditor for Erie County Savings Bank / Sheehan earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from SUNY University of Buffalo / James Sheehan moved to Southern California for a career with Empire of America Savings Bank, returning to West Seneca after a few years / James Sheehan worked as an Accountant with Key Bank in Cleveland, Ohio / Returning to West Seneca, Sheehan spent years on the West Seneca School Board / In 2009, James Sheehan relocated to Cornelius, North Carolina / James P. "Jim" Sheehan passed away in 2024 as a result of a traffic accident at the age of 76 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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHEEHAN

JOSEPH

P.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1964

Unit / Squadron:

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP-26 (MAG-26)

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (PISTOL)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Corporal Joseph P. Sheehan honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Joseph Sheehan was assigned as a Helicopter Mechanic (Reciprocating) and was stationed overseas for 12 month of foreign duty

Joseph Sheehan was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marines on 9 October 1964

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Air Station, New River, North Carolina - Marine Corps Air Station New River is a United States Marine Corps helicopter and tilt-rotor base in Jacksonville, North Carolina / In 1972, the airfield was named McCutcheon Field for General Keith B. McCutcheon, one of the fathers of Marine Corps helicopter aviation

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Sheehan attended Immaculate Conception School and graduated from East Aurora High School / Sheehan was a member of the American Legion, East Aurora Conservation Club, and Knights of St. John / Joseph Sheehan also volunteered with the South Buffalo Community Table / Joseph P. Sheehan passed away on 20 May 2022 at the age of 79 years old

Marine Aircraft Group 26 (MAG-26) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station New River composed of seven MV-22 Osprey squadrons, one of which is the Fleet Replacement Squadron, an aviation logistics squadron, and a wing support squadron / It falls under the command of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and II Marine Expeditionary Force / Marine Aircraft Group 26 was commissioned on 16 June 1952 and its mission is to Exercise tactical command and control and provide responsive combat assault



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support, aviation logistics support, and aviation ground support to Marine, Joint, and Coalition forces to enable amphibious and expeditionary operations

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

The 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: SHEEHAN

THOMAS

P.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas Patrick Sheehan honorably served in the United States Navy / Thomas Sheehan was stationed in San Diego, California and Portland, Oregon

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Sheehan graduated from Canisius High School and Canisius College / Sheehan went on to the University of Buffalo Medical School, earning his medical degree in 1967 / Thomas Sheehan joined the Rayhill, Miller and Sheehan family medical practice / Dr. Thomas Patrick Sheehan passed away on 31 May 2024 at the age of 82 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHEEHY

EDWARD J.

Hometown: LANGFORD

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:

Edward Joseph Sheehy honorably served in the United States Military

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Sheehy worked 43 years in the railroad industry as an engineer working for New York Central, Penn Central, Conrail, and ended his career as the Director of Safety for the CSX Railroad for the Northeast Region / Sheehy was a member of the Men's Club at Epiphany of our Lord Church in Langford, New York and a member of the North Collins American Legion Post #1640 / Edward Joseph Sheehy passed away on 28 March 2026 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHEEHY

THOMAS J.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Thomas J. Sheehy honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Sheehy was a longtime volunteer for the American Red Cross and active for many years at the Buffalo Irish Center / Thomas J. Sheehy passed away on 3 January 2026 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHEER

GLENN

P.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: AE

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Aviation Electrician's Mate Glenn P. Sheer honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Glenn P. Sheer was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / Glenn P. Sheer passed away on 22 September 2013 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at Bath National Cemetery, Bath, New York

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHIESLEY

WAYNE

F.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Wayne F. Shiesley honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne F. Shiesley passed away on 25 December 2024 at the age of 77 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHINNERS

SEAN

M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sean M. Shinnors honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Shinnors was trained as a Russian language interpreter

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Sean Shinnors graduated from Canisius High School and the University of Buffalo / In 1995 Sean Shinnors became President of Buffalo Tver Sister Cities, Inc., a company dedicated to the improvement of healthcare in the Tver region of Russia / Shinnors was the owner-operator of Parkside's Restaurant on West Oakwood Place in Buffalo from 1986 through 1990 / Sean M. Shinnors passed away on 13 January 2024 at the age of 78 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHOEMAKER

DONALD E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 48 SEYMOUR STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Donald Elton Shoemaker honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Donald Shoemaker was deployed to Vietnam in January 1967 as a Rifleman / PFC Donald Shoemaker was Killed In Action on 22 January 1967 from an enemy explosive device in Quang Tin province, South Vietnam

During the night of 22 January 1967, small arms fire and grenade explosions were heard in the vicinity of a two man LP (Listening Post) that was located near the Company CP (Command Post) on Hill 10 near the Tien Dao village complex in Binh Son District / By daylight, when the men assigned to the LP did not return to the CP, a patrol was sent out to their position / The patrol found both their comrades, had been killed in action by fragmentation wounds from hostile grenades during the night / One of the casualties was, PFC Donald Shoemaker

LCPL Donald Shoemaker was in the U.S. Marine Corps for 5 years / Prior to being deployed to Vietnam, Shoemaker was stationed in Japan and the Caribbean

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Shoemaker attended School 40 and 44 and the Boy's Vocational High School / Shoemaker worked for



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the Colad Company and for a meat packing concern before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 17 years old / Donald Elton Shoemaker was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, New York

Donald Elton Shoemaker is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14e, Line 68

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 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (2/7) is a light infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / They are based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and consist of approximately 800 marines and sailors / The battalion falls under the command of the 7th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the 2/7 participated in the Battles of Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa / During the Korean War, The Battalion participated in the Inchon Landing and the recapture of Seoul / 2/7 was deployed to Vietnam from July 1965 until October 1970 as part of the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division / The battalion operated in the southern half of I Corp most of the time, Qui Nhon, Chu Lai, Da Nang Air Base, Dai Loc and An Hoa / The 2/7 were instrumental players in Operation Utah and Operation Harvest Moon

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

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



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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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

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



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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: **SICURELLA**
CHARLES

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:

Charles Sicurella honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Sicurella passed away on 10 September 2023 and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SIEMKO

KENNETH M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CTOSN

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVB/CVA/CV-42)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Cryptologic (Communications Branch) Seaman Kenneth Michael Siemko honorably served in the United States Navy / CTOSN Kenneth Siemko was assigned as a Cryptographic Technician

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth M. Siemko was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

Cryptologic Technician (CT) performs a wide range of tasks in support of the national intelligence-gathering effort, with an emphasis on cryptology and signal intelligence related products / Almost every detail surrounding the CT world from administration to operations to repair requires dedicated technicians with appropriate security clearances

USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVB/CVA/CV-42) was the second of three Midway-class aircraft carriers and commissioned on 27 October 1945 / To her crew, she was known as "Swanky Franky," "Foo-De-Roo," or "Rosie," with the last nickname probably the most popular / The USS Roosevelt spent most of her active deployed career operating in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the United States Sixth Fleet / From August 1966 to January 1967, Franklin D. Roosevelt made her only deployment to Southeast Asia, spending a total of 95 days "on the line" / Her embarked airwing, Carrier Air Wing One, consisted mainly of F-4 Phantom IIs and A-4 Skyhawks / Roosevelt received one battle star for her service during the Vietnam War / The ship was decommissioned in 1977 and was scrapped on 3 May 1978 / She was the first aircraft carrier of the United States Navy to be named in honor of a President of the United States



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Name: **SIKORSKI**
FRANCIS B.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Francis B. Sikorski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis Sikorski worked at the Tonawanda Chevrolet Plant for over 40 years / Francis B. Sikorski passed away on 8 November 2024 and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SIKORSKI, JR.

FRANK

L.

Hometown: BLASDELL

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:

Frank L. Sikorski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank L. Sikorski, Jr. passed away on 7 January 2026 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SILVASHY, JR.**

JOHN R.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 47TH ENGINEER BATTALION, THIRD US ARMY

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PARACHUTIST BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class John R. Silvashy, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 John Silvashy was assigned as a Concrete Paving Equipment Operator / SP5 Silvashy completed training in Concrete Paving Equipment Operations: Basic Airborne,; Chemical, Biological, Radiological (CBR); and Escape, Evasion & Survival

SP5 John Silvashy, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 22 May 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Silvashy graduated from Tonawanda High School in 1966 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Silvashy worked for the US Postal Service until his retirement / John Silvashy was a member of the Gastown Sportsmens Club / John R. Silvashy, Jr. passed away on 26 September 2022 at the age of 74 years old

Engineering Battalions performed many engineering tasks, including demolitions, obstacle emplacement, fortification, and light bridge building / Engineer general service regiments and battalions performed construction, repair, and maintenance duties of all kinds behind the front lines / When needed, combat engineers also could act as infantry

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



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reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold War

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SIMCHICK**
RONALD

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ronald Simchick honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Cuban Missile Crisis

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Simchick was a lifetime member of American Legion Matthew Glab Post # 1477 / Simchick was retired from General Motors and was a member of the Local #774 Autoworkers Union / Ronald Simchick passed away on 3 September 2018



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SIMET**

DONALD P.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2ND LT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Second Lieutenant Donald P. Simet honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Simet was a graduate of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Canisius College, the University at Buffalo School of Law and attended Yale University / Simet was a professor of law at several universities including the University of North Dakota and the University at Buffalo / Donald Simet served as a prosecutor with the Erie County DA's office, the New York State Attorney General's Office, and the US Attorney's Office -WDNY / Donald Paul Simet PhD, Esq. passed away on 3 December 2025 at the age of 88 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SIMMONS**

HERBERT H.

Hometown: GOWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

36TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL (SM)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Herbert H. Simmons honorably served in the United States Army / Herbert Simmons was deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the 36th Evac Hospital

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Herbert Simmons was employed at the Gowanda Psychiatric Center as a Therapy Aide for over 30 years until his retirement / Simmons was an active member and Past Chaplin of the Gowanda Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #5007 and an active member of the Gowanda American Legion Post #409 / Herbert H. Simmons passed away on 19 February 2026 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Collins Center Cemetery, Collins Center, New York

36th Evacuation Hospital (Semi-Mobile), Vung Tau, Vietnam - The 36th Evacuation Hospital served in the Pacific Theater of Operations where it took part in the New Guinea, Luzon and Leyte Campaigns and the occupation of Japan / During the Vietnam War, the 36th Evacuation Hospital was established in Vung, Tau Vietnam from 7 March 1966 until 28 November 1969 and engaged in Medical Combat Operations

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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SIMMONS, JR.
ELLIOTT

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 486 EAST UTICA STREET

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Elliott Simmons, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Elliott Simmons was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / CPL Elliott Simmons was Killed In Action on 7 August 1966 from an enemy explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Upon arriving in Vietnam, CPL Elliott was assigned to 1st Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division / Kilo Company was a night defensive position near Cau Ha, 8 kilometers north northeast of Dien Ban, when at approximately 0545hrs, a grenade was thrown into the fox hole of CPL Elliott and another Marine / Both Marines died as a result of shrapnel to the body

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Elliott Simmons enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1963 / Elliott Simmons, Jr. was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Elliott Simmons, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09e, Line 109



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

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

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

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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: **SIMON**

GENE

M.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Gene M. Simon honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gene M. Simon passed away on 15 December 2024 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SINGLETARY, JR.
JAMES

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

James Singletary, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / James Singletary was assigned as a Radioman during his U.S. Navy service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Singletary, Jr. graduated from East High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, James Singletary earned his Bachelor's Degree from Buffalo State College and a Masters degree from Canisius College / Singletary served as an Assistant Principal at Seneca High School and a Secondary Assistant principal at Hutchinson Central Technical High School / James Singletary also served as the Director of Non-Instructional Personnel/Affirmative Action, hiring hundreds of people for Civil Service positions / James Singletary, Jr. passed away on 23 December 2023 at the age of 76 years old

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SINNOTT

JAMES E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1983

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:

Sergeant First-Class James Edward Sinnott honorably served in the United States Army / SFC James Sinnott was deployed to Vietnam in 1965, and was awarded both the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in combat operations and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat

James Sinnott retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, James Sinnott entered the U.S. Army in 1963 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army Sinnott retired after 20 years with the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority / James Sinnott was an active member of the Hamburg Rod and Gun Club / Following his retirement from the NFTA, James Sinnott moved to Bradenton, Florida / James Edward Sinnott passed away on 15 January 2026 at the age of 83 and is interred at the Sarasota National Cemetery, Sarasota, Florida

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



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 / 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 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: SIREIKA, SR.

JAMES S.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

James S. Sireika, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / James Sireika was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James S. Sireika, Sr. passed away on 27 January 2017

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SIRIANNI

DANIEL E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 343 FARGO AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 2ND CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP E 1

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Daniel Edward Sirianni honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Daniel Sirianni was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1967 as a Self-Propelled Artillery Repairer-Technician / LCPL Daniel Sirianni was Killed In Action on 8 February 1968 from enemy small arms fire in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

LCPL Daniel Sirianni was killed volunteering to help his fellow Marines pinned down by enemy fire on 8 February 1968 on Lo Giang hamlet

There was heavy enemy activity in the vicinity of Danang Air Base during the first days of the Tet Offensive at the end of January 1968, continuing into early February / Combined Action Company ECHO, part of the 2nd CA Group, had small units in place in several villages covering the southern approaches to Danang / One of those units, CAP ECHO 4, was in Lo Giang hamlet, just south of the Cam Le Bridge over the Cau Do River / Early on 08 Feb 1968, ECHO 4 was taken under attack by a mixed NVA/VC force seemingly intent on attacking the Danang Air Base / ECHO 4 was unfortunate enough to be in the path of a regimental-size unit / While part of the NVA/VC force laid siege to ECHO 4 the bulk of the force moved north to and forded the Cau Do River east of the Cam Le Bridge / A second Combined Action unit, CAP ECHO 3, was in place on the northern side on the river; it too was directly in the NVA/VC regiment's path / Fortunately for ECHO 3, the delay at ECHO 4 caused the NVA/VC to reach the river after sunrise, allowing a pair of A-1 Skyraiders the opportunity to disrupt the attack



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and force the enemy to disperse / Meanwhile, ECHO 4 was getting desperate, they were running out of ammunition, supplementing their limited supplies with AK-47s and ammunition from dead NVA/VC soldiers / The ECHO Company Commander, Captain Howard L. Joselane, had directed formation of a relief force drawn from his other platoons / A 17-man force, led by Captain Joselane, departed ECHO Company headquarters at Hoa Vang by truck, crossed the Cam Le Bridge, and started on foot up the dirt road toward the ECHO 4 compound / As the relief force approached a tree line surrounding Lo Giang hamlet, it came nose-to-nose with 250-300 NVA/VC troops, a situation with only one possible outcome / Captain Joselane and his Marines fought valiantly, but they were hopelessly out-numbered and out-gunned / Captain Joselane's last radio reports to the ECHO headquarters at Hoa Vang were "... we're getting chewed up ... we're not going to get out ... there are too many ... they're all over us ... no way out ... Don't send anyone else in here ... Tell my wife I love her..." / Fading daylight, uncertainty with respect to the exact location of the relief force, and limited manpower caused the 2nd CA Group headquarters to decide against sending in further forces before sunrise on the 9th / One survivor of the ambush made his way back to Hoa Vang / When the second reaction force went in, they found one badly wounded survivor, twelve dead, and three missing / One of the missing Marines returned to friendly control; he had been captured but was able to escape his captors during the chaos of the fighting / The other two were gone / The final disposition of the 17 men who had set out to relieve ECHO 4 follows: 12 Marines were killed including LCPL Daniel Sirianni; 2 Marines were captured and died in captivity; 1 Marine was captured but escaped and 2 Marines were wounded but survived the ambush

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Sirianni graduated from Grover Cleveland High School and immediately enlisted in the Marines on 31 May 1966, at a recruiting office in Buffalo / Daniel Edward Sirianni was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel Edward Sirianni is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 38e, Line 39

Marines Corps Self-Propelled Artillery Repairer/Technicians inspects, maintains and repairs self-propelled artillery, such as howitzers, mortar systems, rocket artillery, multiple rocket launchers

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

2nd Civil Affairs Group (2nd CAG) is a civil affairs (CA) unit of the United States Marine Corps / It is based at Naval Support Facility Anacostia, Washington, D.C., and is part of the Force Headquarters Group of the Marine Forces Reserve / 2nd CAG is commanded by a Colonel and the unit has 38 Marine officers, 85 Marine enlisted, four Navy officers and one Navy enlisted / The unit consists of one headquarters detachment and four line detachments / The primary tactical function of civil affairs is to support Marines and sailors by interacting and



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working with the local governments and populations which they deploy to / Civil affairs is important because it gives the Marine Corps a chance to develop and maintain a good rapport in allied and partner countries, reducing terrorist opportunities by winning peoples' hearts and minds, thus contributing to regional stability

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SISLEY**

WILLIAM S.

Hometown: ANGOLA

Address: 8801 ERIE ROAD

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 502ND INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William Edward Sisley honorably served in the United States Army PFC William Sisley was deployed to Vietnam on 18 May 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC William Sisley was Killed In Action on 8 July 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 08 July 1969, the 3rd Platoon, A Company 1/502nd Infantry, was conducting a sweep in a valley near the hamlet of Ma Cau, just north of the only slightly larger village of Hau Duc / The point squad was ambushed by North Vietnamese soldiers and the following squad moved up to help, but there were sufficient NVA forces to cut off both squads from the remainder of the platoon / The last radio contact with the encircled US force was at 1445 (2:45 pm) on 08 July / Air and artillery fires were used to cordon off the last known US position while reinforcements were moved in, but nightfall precluded a movement to contact / At first light on 09 July elements of 1/502 moved forward and by 0900 had made contact with the surviving US soldiers / Eleven Americans died as a result of the ambush, including PFC William Sisley

PFC William Sisley was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 July 1969 / Private Sisley distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in the Third Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, during a combat operation in Tien Phuoc Province, Republic of Vietnam / Private Sisley was providing rear security when the



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Third Platoon was ambushed by North Vietnamese soldiers / Being surrounded, the Third Platoon was cut off and pinned down / Private Sisley remained behind and cut off all attempts by the advancing enemy soldiers to infiltrate the hasty perimeter / Remaining unassisted to protect the vulnerable rear, Private Sisley was wounded by two North Vietnamese soldiers / Undaunted, he continued to deliver effective fire on the converging enemy and drove them off / As the battle wore on, PFC Sisley repeatedly repulsed each renewed attack / Finally, running low on ammunition, PFC William Sisley was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Sisley attended Hutchinson Technical High School and graduated from the State University of Buffalo in 1968 / William Edward Sisley was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Avenue Cemetery, Angola, New York

William Edward Sisley is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21w, Line 86

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

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



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The 502nd Infantry Regiment (502nd IR), previously titled the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (502nd PIR), is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment was established shortly after U.S. entry into World War II, and was assigned as a regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / "The Screaming Eagles", one of the most decorated formations of the U.S. Army / The regiment saw substantial action in the European Theater of World War II and was inactivated in 1945, shortly after the end of the war / Reactivating in a new form in 1956, the 502nd Infantry has served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq / The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was deployed to South Vietnam in April 1965 and left Vietnam in December 1971 / Since 1974, the regiment has been classified as an Air Assault unit

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

for the Marine Corps

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

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

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

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Private First-Class William Edward Sisley was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SITARSKI

JOHN

M.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John M. Sitarski honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Sitarski was a volunteer firefighter with the Williamsville Fire Department / John M. Sitarski passed away on 6 July 2024 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SIXT**

JOHN

D.

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 D. Sixt honorably served in the United States Military / John Sixt was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SKERRETT

EDWARD H.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

1/9TH REGIMENT, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Edward H. Skerrett honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Skerrett completed the Armor Officer Basic Course and was assigned as a map-reading instructor at Fort Knox / Captain Skerrett was deployed to Vietnam where he served as a platoon leader and public affairs officer / CPT Skerrett was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered on the battlefield and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service during combat operations

Base Assignments:

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to house a large portion of the United States' official gold reserves / It is named in honor of Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery in the American Revolutionary War and the first United States Secretary of War / A new Armored Force was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox with the 7th Cavalry Brigade becoming the 1st Armored Division / The Armored Force School and the Armored Force Replacement Center were also sited at Fort Knox in October 1940, and their successors remained there until 2010, when the Armor School moved to Fort Benning, Georgia / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the American tanks of the day; the last was the M1 Abrams main battle tank / In 2011, the U.S. Army Armor School moved to Fort Moore, Georgia, where the Infantry School is also based

Miscellaneous:



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Edward Skerrett graduated from Canisius High School in 1956 and earned a BA from Canisius College in 1962 and an MA in English from Fordham University in 1964 / Edward Skerrett was an Assistant Professor of English at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, from 1968 to 1973 / After working as a summer hire for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at JFK and Montreal, Skerrett accepted a permanent position as an inspector in Champlain, New York / Edward Skerrett's career went on to span four decades with positions in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as an inspector, examiner and Assistant District Director for Examinations; in Washington, D.C. Headquarters as a Senior Examiner, Branch Chief, Director of the Adjudications Appeals Unit, and Director of Overseas Operations; and in London, England, as the Officer in Charge and Immigration Attache at the U.S. Embassy / Skerrett served as the agency representative for the bipartisan U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform led by Congresswoman Barbara Jordon / Edward Skerrett went on to teach as an adjunct English professor at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Montgomery County Community College in Maryland, the former Wesley College in Dover, and Delaware Technical College in Georgetown until his retirement in 2015 and moving to Georgetown, Delaware / Edward H. Skerrett passed away on 24 January 2026 at the age of 87 years old

The Armor Branch is a command centric branch that prepares officers to command combined arms formations across the full spectrum of military operations / The Armor Branch serves two primary functions in support of unified land operations: firstly, to provide combined arms formations the capability to close with and destroy the enemy using fire, maneuver, and shock effect; secondly, to provide cavalry and scout formations the capabilities to perform reconnaissance and security during combined arms maneuver and wide area security operations

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action / The 1st Air Cavalry refers to the 1st Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army, which was the first Airmobile Division / This division is known for its air assault infantry capabilities and has a rich history, including significant operations during the Iraq War, where Apache Longbows from the division engaged in battles against Iraq's Republican Guard / The division continues to provide scalable combat-ready forces and is capable of conducting operations globally / Recently, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade conducted a change of command ceremony, highlighting its ongoing operational relevance

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



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

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

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

JACK

E.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

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:

Jack E. Skinner honorably served in the United States Air Force for over 37 years

During his military service, Jack Skinner visited over 60 countries and 49 states

Base Assignments:

Niagara Falls Air Base, Niagara Falls, New York - The Niagara Falls Air Base was established in 1955 and is an Air Force Reserve Command military installation operationally-gained by the Air Mobility Command / It is located 4.7 miles east-northeast of Niagara Falls, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard) / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base / A Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) for all five branches of the U.S. is also located at the station / In July 1968, approximately 400 members of the 107th were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, for almost a year attached to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing

Miscellaneous:

Jack Skinner graduated from Chautauqua Central School and Niagara University / Skinner was a member of the Aero Club of Buffalo, Buffalo Audubon, Buffalo Geological Society / Jack Skinner was a member of the Grand Island American Legion and a life member of the Mayville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) / Jack E. Skinner passed away on 18 January 2025 at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SKOMSKI

JAMES M.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address: 76 BURDETTE DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class James Mark Skomski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 James Skomski was deployed to Vietnam on 22 October 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 James Skomski was Killed In Action on 8 February 1969 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On 8 February 1969, elements of "A" Company were on a combat operation in Tay Ninh Province when they engaged the enemy in a fire fight during which SP4 James Skomski was killed by hostile rifle fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Skomski attended St. Ann's Parochial School and Seneca Vocational School / Skomski was employed by American Optical Company in Cheektowaga prior to entering the U.S. Army in May 1968 / James Mark Skomski was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James Mark Skomski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 33w, Line 89



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

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The 12th Cavalry is a cavalry regiment of the United States Army / It is currently stationed at Fort Cavazos, formerly known as Fort Hood / On 2 February 1901, Congress authorized the organization of the Twelfth Regiment of Cavalry, Army of the United States / Under this authority, the regiment was formed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on 8 February 1901 / During World War II, the 2nd Battalion saw its first combat on Los Negros Island in March 1944 and also participated in the invasion of the Philippines / The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and fought the division's first engagement from 18 to 20 September 1965 as part of Operation Gibraltar / On 2 February 1968 during the Battle of Hue, the battalion was deployed from Camp Evans to PK-17 to launch an attack towards La Chu to close off the PAVN supply routes west of Hue / The battalion participated in the Cambodian Incursion and earned its 16th campaign streamer for the Sanctuary Counteroffensive / On 26 March 1971, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry stood down after five and a half years in Vietnam and returned to the United States at Fort Hood, Texas

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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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

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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: **SKORUPA**

ROBERT A.

Hometown: EAST AURORA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Robert A. Skorupa honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Robert Skorupa was deployed to Vietnam for 1 year and 10 months

Robert Skorupa was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 2 August 1968 with reserve obligation ending 30 June 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Skorupa served Cheektowaga as a Police Officer for over 35 years / Robert Skorupa was a member of the Marine Corp. League, Detachment #239 and the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee / Robert A. Skorupa passed away on 1 November 2024 at the age of 77 years old

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SKOTWICKI

WILLIAM J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

507TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal (E-4) William Joseph Skotwicki honorably served in the United States Army and was assigned as an Aircraft Engine Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William J. Skotwicki was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

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



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

Name: SKRETNY, JR.

ANTHONY V.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Anthony V. Skretny, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony V. Skretny, Jr. passed away on 23 December 2020



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SLAWINOWSKI**

DONALD M.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Donald M. Slawinowski honorably served in the United States Army as a Medical Corpsman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Slawinowski worked at Buffalo General Hospital for 43 years as a Mental Health Counselor / Slawinowski was very active coaching little league baseball teams / Donald M. Slawinowski passed away on 15 September 2024 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Pembroke, New York

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SLIFKA

KARL

F.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

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:

Karl Slifka honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Karl Slifka passed away on 25 September 25 at the age of 89 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SLIFKA**

KARL

F.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

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:

Karl F. Slifka honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Karl F. Slifka passed away on 25 September 2025 at the age of 89 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SLIMAK**
CASEY

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:

Casey Slimak honorably served in the United States Military / Casey Slimak was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SLOWIK

MATTHEW

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:

Matthew Slowik honorably served in the United States Military / Matthew Slowik was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SMACZNIAK, JR.**

JOSEPH E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5-E5

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1975

Unit / Squadron:

85TH QUARTERMASTER

Medals / Citations:

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

ARMY MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Joseph Smaczniak, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

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

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

Nahbollenbach Army Depot - Nahbollenbach Army Depot in Idar-Oberstein is approximately seven miles from Strassburg Kaserne, southwest Germany. Nahbollenbach was a German Army depot until the end of World War II when it was turned over to the French Army / In 1950, the Depot it was turned over to the US Army and used as a Quartermaster Depot, a General Depot and as a US Army Depot. US Army Depot / Nahbollenbach was the headquarters of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, Europe (MATCOM) / Nahbollenbach was deactivated in 1975.



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Miscellaneous:

Joseph Smaczniak, Jr. graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Cheektowaga and attended Bryant & Stratton Business College where he graduated in June 1969 / Smaczniak enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1969

Quartermaster Corps. - The United States Army Quartermaster Corps is a Sustainment, formerly combat service support (CSS), branch of the United States Army / It is also one of three U.S. Army logistics branches, the others being the Transportation Corps and the Ordnance Corps / The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps mission is to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of general supply, Mortuary Affairs, subsistences, petroleum and water, material and distribution management during peace and war to provide combat power to the U.S. Army / The officer in charge of the branch for doctrine, training, and professional development purposes is the Quartermaster General

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 Unit Citation is a formal, honorary mention by high authority of a military unit's specific and outstanding performance, notably in battle / Similar mentions can also be made for individual soldiers / Alternatively or concurrently, the unit can be awarded an honorary title, a mention on the flag or a decoration

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SMEAL**
LEON

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 34 SAWYER AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: T/SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Technical Sergeant Leon Smeal honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Thailand

The brother of T/SGT Leon Smeal, Army Sergeant Robert Smeal, was Killed In Action on 15 March 1968 when his helicopter crashed after receiving enemy groundfire in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Name: **SMEAL**
ROBERT

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 34 SAWYER AVENUE

- Vietnam Era*
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY, C TROOP

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Robert Smeal honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Robert Smeal was deployed to Vietnam on 8 August 1968 as a Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman / SGT Robert Smeal was Killed In Action on 15 March 1968 when his helicopter crashed after receiving enemy groundfire in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

The brother of Sergeant Robert Smeall, Army Technical Sergeant Leon Smeal honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Thailand

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Smeal was a Town of Tonawanda native / Robert Smeal graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army on 31 December 1966 / Robert Smeal was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Morningside Cemetery, DuBois, Pennsylvania

Robert Smeal is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44e, Line 62

A Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with how to fix the



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Town of West Seneca, New York

various systems on a helicopter including the fuel, electrical, and hydraulic system / During training, they learn how to properly disassemble and repair the engine / The Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with the repair and installation of aircraft subsystem assemblies / These assemblies can include engines, main rotor head, hydraulic pump, transmissions, gearboxes, rotors, and mechanical flight controls

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

The 9th Cavalry was organized on 21 September 1866 at Greenville, Louisiana / In the 1870s and the 1880s, the 9th Cavalry fought with great distinction throughout the western United States in numerous campaigns against marauding American Indians, Mexicans, and lawless settlers / The 9th participated in operations during World War II and the Korea War / On 15 September 1965, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry arrived in the Republic of Vietnam and began operations as the divisional air cavalry squadron for the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry participated in such pivotal battles as the Ia Drang Valley, Khe Sahn, Binh Dinh, and Quang Tri/ The Squadron was the first unit of the 1st Cavalry Division to capture North Vietnamese Soldiers with C Troop taking three prisoners on 30 October near Pleiku / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry remained in Vietnam until 28 June 1971 / It is estimated that the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was responsible for 50 percent of all enemy Soldiers killed by the 1st Cavalry Division during the war / It was for this reason that the Squadron earned the nickname "The Headhunters" / Three Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam

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

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

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



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

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: SMITH

DARWIN E.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

USS SEALION (LPSS- 315)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Darwin Eugene Smith honorably served in the United States Navy / Darwin Smith served as Chefs Cook on the USS Sealion (LPSS- 315), with 2 years 10 months sea service operating off the coast of Key West

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Darwin Smith worked at the Dunlop Plant in the Town of Tonawanda / Darwin Eugene Smith passed away on 22 March 2025 at the age of 79 years old

USS Sealion (LPSS-315), a Balao-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the sea lion, any of several large, eared seals native to the Pacific / She is sometimes referred to as Sealion II, because her first skipper, Lieutenant Commander Eli Thomas Reich, was a veteran of the first Sealion (SS-195), serving on her when she was lost at the beginning of World War II / Sealion was the only US and Allied submarine that sank an enemy battleship during the Second World War / The USS Sealion was commissioned on 8 March 1944 and assigned to Submarine Division 222 (SubDiv 222), sailed for the Pacific, arrived at Pearl Harbor on 17 May 1944 and headed west on her first war patrol / During World War II, the Sealion continued to patrol in the Pacific sinking cargo freighters and tankers / On 21 November 1944, the USS Sealion intercepted a powerful surface fleet consisting of the battleships Yamato, Nagato, and Kongō, the cruiser Yahagi, and the destroyers Hamakaze, Isokaze, Urakaze, Yukikaze, Kiri, and Ume, sinking the Japanese battleship Kongō / The USS Sealion was the only American submarine to sink an enemy battleship in World War II / The USS Sealion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for her six war patrols and was decommissioned on 2 February 1946 / On 2 November 1948, the Sealion was recommissioned as a Submarine, Transport, with the hull classification



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symbol SSP-315 and utilized for training exercises off the southern California coast / On 30 June 1960, Sealion was again decommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where she remained as a reserve training submarine until reactivated a year later / In August 1961, she was towed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for overhaul; on 20 October, she was recommissioned, and on 18 December, she rejoined SubRon 6 at Norfolk / In September 1969, the USS Sealion was decommissioned in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she was decommissioned and placed in the inactive fleet on 20 February 1970 / Stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 15 March 1977, Sealion was sunk as a target off Newport, Rhode Island, on 8 July 1978 / The USS Sealion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with five battle stars, World War II Victory Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with star

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: SMITH

EDWARD R.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (GRENADE LAUNCHER)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Edward R. Smith honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Edward Smith was assigned as an Enlisted Aide and was stationed for two years at Army Headquarters, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Edward R. Smith passed away on 25 November 2022 at the age of 74 years old and interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

EDWARD W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: AGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Edward W. Smith honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Smith graduated from West Seneca High School in 1963, then attended the University of Buffalo before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps / After his Honorable Discharge from the Marine Corps, Smith worked for and managed the Pierce Arrow Restaurant, later becoming the regional director of Marketing for the Holiday Inn Hotel chain / In 1982 Smith became the Executive Director of Melody Fair in North Tonawanda, but the summer dome went bankrupt and closed / Edward Smith bought and reopened Melody Fair in 1987 / Smith also started staging shows at Kleinhans Music Hall and at Shea's Performing Arts Center / In 1990, Smith managed the Tralfamadore Café, renaming it as the Marquee at the Tralf / Smith opened a summer concert venue at the Starlite Music Theater, losing his lease in 1997 / Smith shut Crowdaddy's Restaurant on the Buffalo waterfront and closed Melody Fair in 1998 / In 1990, Edward Smith was the Executive Producer of the Variety Club of Buffalo and produced the Club's Variety Telethon on WKBW-TV for many years / Smith was also the Chairman of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and served on the New York State Board of Camp Good Days and Special Times / In the 2000s, Smith was the Chairman of the Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau and operated The Funhouse in Lackawanna, which booked talent for various venues / Edward W. Smith passed away at the age of 77 years old on 8 November 2022 after a long illness at the Batavia Veterans Affairs Medical Center



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH
GERALD

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:

Gerald Smith honorably served in the United States Military / Gerald Smith was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

JAMES

A.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James A. Smith honorably served in the United States Army was attached to an Artillery Division

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After receiving an Honorable Discharge, James Smith was employed by General Motors, Power Train Division, where he retired

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons that launch munitions far beyond the range and power of infantry firearms / Early artillery development focused on the ability to breach defensive walls and fortifications during sieges, and led to heavy, fairly immobile siege engines / As technology improved, lighter, more mobile field artillery cannons developed for battlefield use / This development continues today; modern self-propelled artillery vehicles are highly mobile weapons of great versatility generally providing the largest share of an army's total firepower / Originally, the word "artillery" referred to any group of soldiers primarily armed with some form of manufactured weapon or armor / Since the introduction of gunpowder and cannon, "artillery" has largely meant cannon, and in contemporary usage, usually refers to shell-firing guns, howitzers, and mortars (collectively called barrel artillery, cannon artillery or gun artillery) and rocket artillery



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

JOSEPH

P.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

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:

Joseph P. Smith honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph P. Smith passed away on 25 March 2024 at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH
KENNETH

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:

Kenneth Smith honorably served in the United States Military / Kenneth Smith was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

MICHAEL A.

Hometown: ELMA

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:

Michael A. Smith honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Smith was a retired West Seneca Police Lieutenant / Michael A. Smith passed away on 13 June 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

MICHAEL A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Michael A. Smith honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Michael Smith was stationed in Germany

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

NICHOLAS J.

Hometown: ALDEN

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 J. Smith honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Nicholas Smith attended high school in East Aurora before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force / Nicholas Smith worked for National Fuel Gas until his retirement in 1996 / Smith was a member of Allied Sportsmen's Club for years serving as President / Nicholas Smith was a member of the Crittenden Volunteer Fire Company and held the offices of Chief as well as Assistant Chief, Chairman of Board of Directors, Safety Officer, Captain, Public Relations Officer and Fire Police / Smith was the Treasurer of the Alden's Senior Citizens / Nicholas J. Smith passed away on 30 December 2025 at the age of 89 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

ROBERT J.

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:

Robert J. Smith honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Smith was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania / Robert J. Smith passed away on 11 November 2015 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

ROBERT J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 77 EDSON STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 502ND INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Robert Jeremiah Smith honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Robert Smith was deployed to Vietnam on 11 April 1967 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / CPL Robert Smith was Killed In Action on 29 September 1967 as a result of enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 29 September 1967 elements of 2nd Bn, 327th Infantry and 2nd Bn, 502nd Infantry encircled an NVA unit at Hiep Duc City in Quang Tin Province / Fifteen US soldiers were killed in the ensuing fight, including CPL Robert Smith

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Smith was a graduate of St. Brigid's School and a 1966 graduate of West Seneca High School / Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 / Robert Jeremiah Smith was 20 years old at the time of his passing and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Robert Jeremiah Smith is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 32



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

The 502nd Infantry Regiment (502nd IR), previously titled the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (502nd PIR), is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment was established shortly after U.S. entry into World War II, and was assigned as a regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / "The Screaming Eagles", one of the most decorated formations of the U.S. Army / The regiment saw substantial action in the European Theater of World War II and was inactivated in 1945, shortly after the end of the war / Reactivating in a new form in 1956, the 502nd Infantry has served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq / The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was deployed to South Vietnam in April 1965 and left Vietnam in December 1971 / Since 1974, the regiment has been classified as an Air Assault unit

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH
TIMOTHY

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:

Timothy Smith honorably served in the United States Military / Timothy Smith was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SMOLAREK, JR.**

EDWIN J.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address: **40 ENGLEWOOD AVENUE**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: **MARINE CORPS**

Rank: **CPL**

Year Entered: **1966**

Year Discharged: **KIA**

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 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

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Edwin Joseph Smolarek, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Edwin Smolarek was deployed to Vietnam on 7 January 1969 as a Rifleman / CPL Edwin Smolarek was Killed In Action on 18 August 1969 from wounds suffered when an enemy device exploded during combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

The 1st Battalion was participating in Operation Mighty Play and Delta Company was on a patrol when a hostile booby-trapped 81MM round was detonated 5 kilometers north northeast of Dien Ban / CPL Edwin Smolarek was wounded 14 July 1969 by fragmentation and was med-evac to the rear / Due to the severity of the wounds, CPL Smolarek was sent to the US Naval Hospital in Guam for further medical treatment, where he died of his wounds 18 August 1969

CPL Smolarek served his country for 3 years, serving 2 years of sea duty off the coast of Vietnam before beginning his tour as an Infantryman

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



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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:

Edwin Smolarek was born in West Milwaukee, Wisconsin / Edwin Smolarek was a graduate of Bennett High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute / Smolarek enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966 / Edwin Joseph Smolarek, Jr. was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Edwin Joseph Smolarek, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19w, Line 63

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established



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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SMOLINSKI**

JAMES A.

Hometown: NORTH BOSTON

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

3RD INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James A. "Smoker" Smolinski honorably served in the United States Army with the 3rd Infantry

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Smolinski was an operating Engineer and Master mechanic for the International Union of Operating Engineers (I.U.O.E.) Local #17 for more than 55 years, retiring in 2000 / James A. "Smoker" Smolinski passed away on 21 April 2024 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at St. Mary's Cemetery, East Eden, New York

The 3rd Infantry Regiment is a regiment of the United States Army / It currently has three active battalions, and is readily identified by its nickname, The Old Guard / From 1840 to 1843, the 3rd Infantry fought in the Seminole War in Florida / The 3rd Infantry saw extensive service during the United States Civil War and was credited with 12 campaigns / During World War II, the 3rd Infantry served most of the war as a separate regiment and was not assigned to a combat division until 50 days before the German surrender / On 1 June 1966, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry regiment was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia and assigned to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (199th LIB) / The 199th LIB deployed to South Vietnam in December 1966 operating throughout III Corps / The 199th LIB returned to the United States in 1970 and the 2nd Battalion was inactivated on 15 October 1970 at Fort Benning



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SNIDERHAN, SR.

WILLIAM M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

William Michael "Uncle Bill" Sniderhan, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Michael "Uncle Bill" Sniderhan, Sr. passed away on 7 February 2026 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SNOW, JR.
MILTON

Hometown: EAST AURORA

Address: PORTERVILLE ROAD

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, 84TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 937TH ENGINEER GROUP, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Milton Snow, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Milton Snow was deployed to Vietnam 12 March 1967 as a Carpentry & Masonry Specialist / PFC Milton Snow was on guard duty on 11 October 1967 when he was killed from an accidental shooting in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

PFC Milton Snow, Jr. died as a result of gunshot wounds suffered when he was mistaken for the enemy as he tried to get through a wire barrier 11 October 1967

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 Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In



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1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Miscellaneous:

Milton Snow had attended Iroquois Central High School / Snow entered the U.S. Army in August 1966 / Milton Snow earned his High School diploma while in the Army / Milton Snow, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Maple Rest Cemetery, Marilla, New York

Milton Snow, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 91

A Carpentry and Masonry Specialist, uses the skills needed to handle a variety of carpentry and masonry duties, building important structures for the Army using hand and power tools, lumber, concrete, stones, and bricks / The Specialist also help combat engineers build structures to respond to rough terrain and environmental hazards

The 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) is an engineer brigade of the United States Army / It is currently a subordinate unit of 21st Sustainment Command (Theater) and is headquartered at Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany / Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade provide various supportive duties to other Army units, including construction, engineering, and mechanical work on other Army projects / The brigade served in Europe during World War II, a fact which was included on its Distinctive Unit Insignia when the 20th Engineer Brigade received one on 10 February 1966 / The four corners of the crenelated square allude to their four campaigns in World War II, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe / The 18th Engineer Brigade later deployed to Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, where its battalions saw six years of combat service and supported fourteen campaigns, building infrastructure for both military and civilian projects / The brigade participated in a massive number of road construction projects and airfield constructions, supporting numerous infantry units and operating all over Vietnam / After serving in Vietnam, the brigade became attached to Seventh United States Army / It has since undertaken and completed numerous projects in support of US Army, Europe, and participated in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

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



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January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SNYDER**

JOHN

F.

Hometown: AKRON

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John F. Snyder honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Snyder graduated from Akron Central High School in 1966 / John F. Snyder passed away on 19 June 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SOBASZEK, JR.**

STANLEY

G.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Stanley G. Sobaszek, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley Sobaszek was a 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus and Senior Knights, Father Baker Council #2243 in Lackawanna / Sobaszek was also a member of the East Aurora, New York Moose Lodge #370, the Barrewilks Club, and was a Life Member of the Polish Home Association, Inc. / Stanley Sobaszek was a member of the American Legion Matthew Glab Post #1477 / Stanley G. Sobaszek, Jr. passed away on 30 March 2026 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SOBCZAK**

JAMES

E.

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:

James E. Sobczak honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Sobczak was 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus Father Baker Council #2243 and a member of the Knights of St. John Commandery #391 / Sobczak was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Weber Post #898 / James E. Sobczak passed away on 24 December 2024 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SOBCZYK**
EDWARD

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:

Edward Sobczyk honorably served in the United States Military / Edward Sobczyk was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Name: **SOBCZYNSKI**
GERALD

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Gerald Sobczynski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Sobczynski was a member of IBEW Local #41 / Gerald "Jerry" Sobczynski passed away on 10 March 2024



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SOBIERAJSKI**

JAMES A.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

214TH SQUADRON, NIAGARA FALLS AIRBASE

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant James A. Sobierajski honorably served in the United States Air Force Reserves / SSGT James Sobierajski served as an Airport Administration Specialist

Staff Sergeant James Sobierajski was honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserves on 22 January 1970

Base Assignments:

Niagara Falls Air Base, Niagara Falls, New York - The Niagara Falls Air Base was established in 1955 and is an Air Force Reserve Command military installation operationally-gained by the Air Mobility Command / It is located 4.7 miles east-northeast of Niagara Falls, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard) / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base / A Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) for all five branches of the U.S. is also located at the station / In July 1968, approximately 400 members of the 107th were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, for almost a year attached to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing

Miscellaneous:

James Sobierajski worked for Sears in Buffalo, New York for 30 years and owned a liquor store / James A. Sobierajski passed away on 15 December 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Union Cemetery, Springbrook, New York

Airport Administration Specialist are responsible for routine airport safety inspections, maintenance coordination, oversight of airport pavements, Visual Navigational Aids and Facilities, airfield components, and



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Town of West Seneca, New York

the enforcement of DoD or Host Nation airfield design criteria

Niagara Falls Air Base, Niagara Falls, New York - The Niagara Falls Air Base was established in 1955 and is an Air Force Reserve Command military installation operationally-gained by the Air Mobility Command / It is located 4.7 miles east-northeast of Niagara Falls, New York / The station is the last "federal" USAF installation in the state, the other remaining USAF installations falling under the Air National Guard) / The host unit for the base is the 914th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command which operates the KC-135 Stratotanker / The 107th Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard is also stationed at the base / A Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) for all five branches of the U.S. is also located at the station / In July 1968, approximately 400 members of the 107th were deployed to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam, for almost a year attached to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SOCHA

JAMES E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1975

Year Discharged: 1978

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

COMBAT CREWMAN QUALIFICATION BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

James Edward Socha honorably served in the United States Air Force / James Socha served 3 years 5 months as a Construction Equipment Operator at Edwards Air Force Base, California

James Socha was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 4 August 1978

Base Assignments:

Edwards Air Force Base, California - Edwards AFB is a United States Air Force installation in California / Most of the base sits in Kern County, but its eastern end is in San Bernardino County and a southern arm is in Los Angeles County / Established in the 1930s as Muroc Field, the facility was renamed Muroc Army Airfield and then Muroc Air Force Base before its final renaming in 1950 for World War II USAAF veteran and test pilot Capt. Glen Edwards / Edwards is the home of the Air Force Test Center, Air Force Test Pilot School, and NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center / It is the Air Force Materiel Command center for conducting and supporting research and development of flight, as well as testing and evaluating aerospace systems from concept to combat / It also hosts many test activities conducted by America's commercial aerospace industry / Notable occurrences at Edwards include Chuck Yeager's flight that broke the sound barrier in the Bell X-1, test flights of the North American X-15, the first landings of the Space Shuttle, and the 1986 around-the-world flight of the Rutan Voyager

Miscellaneous:

James Edward Socha passed away on 3 March 2025 at the age of 68 years old

The Combat Crew Badge was established by the United States Air Force on 1 September 1964 / It was worn by those USAF personnel serving in positions where they were accruing creditable service towards the Combat



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Readiness Medal (Any member who have accomplished sustained individual combat mission readiness in an Air Force or Space Force weapon system or who have undertaken the preparedness for direct weapon-system employment) / It was a qualification badge and not a medal; it was therefore not a permanent award / The Air Force eliminated the Combat Crew Badge from wear in August 1993 / This was done under the auspices of addressing uniform accoutrements to eliminate duplication, achieve standardization, and promote an uncluttered appearance

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: SOJDA

EDWARD

G.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Edward G. Sojda honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Sojda worked for Buffalo Forge and HVAC Equipment before his retirement / Sojda coached Hamburg hockey and Hamburg Junior baseball and softball / Edward G. Sojda passed away on 11 January 2023 at the age of 73 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SOLBERG
FRED

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:

Fred Solberg honorably served in the United States Military / Fred Solberg 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: SOMMER

PETER

K

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant Peter K. Sommer honorably served in the U.S. Army / 1ST LT Peter Sommer was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers and Army Reserve as a Post Engineer / Lieutenant Sommer served 23 months of foreign duty with the Engineer District Europe in Vogelsberg District, Germany

Peter K. Sommer was Honorably Discharged from active duty on 9 June 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter K. Sommer passed away on 22 November 2021

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was authorized on 16 March 1802 and is a direct reporting unit and engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works / The day-to-day activities of the three mission areas are administered by a lieutenant general known as the chief of engineers/commanding general / The chief of engineers commands the Engineer Regiment, comprising combat engineer, rescue, construction, dive, and other specialty units, and answers directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army. Combat engineers, sometimes called sappers, form an integral part of the Army's combined arms team and are found in all Army service components: Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve / Their duties are to breach obstacles; construct fighting positions, fixed/floating bridges, and obstacles and defensive positions; place and detonate explosives; conduct route clearance operations; emplace and detect landmines; and fight as provisional infantry when required / For the military construction mission, the chief of engineers is directed and supervised by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

installations, environment, and energy, whom the President appoints and the Senate confirms / Military construction relates to construction on military bases and worldwide installations

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: **SOSNOWSKI**

THEODORE S.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

8TH INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Theodore S. Sosnowski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Theodore Sosnowski was attached to the 8th Infantry in Germany

Base Assignments:

Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana - Fort Benjamin Harrison was a U.S. Army post located in suburban Lawrence Township, Marion County, Indiana, northeast of Indianapolis, between 1906 and 1991 / It is named for the 23rd United States president, Benjamin Harrison / Fort Benjamin Harrison saw its highest levels of activity during World War I and World War II / The Fort Benjamin Harrison Reception Center (for inducting draftees) opened in 1941 and by 1943 was the largest reception center in the United States / Fort Benjamin Harrison was closed as part of the 1991 Base Realignment and Closure Commission / The site of the base has since been redeveloped, and includes residential neighborhoods, a golf course, and is the site of Fort Harrison State Park

Miscellaneous:

Theodore Sosnowski attended Bishop Duffy High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 31 October 1967, Sosnowski attended Niagara County Community College earning an Associate's Degree / Sosnowski went to work for the Carborundum Corporation as a Data Processor / Attending Capital University in Ohio, Sosnowski earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration / In the early 1970's, Sosnowski joined the Sherwood Corporation, a division of the Hill Acme Corporation and was Plant Controller in 1979 / After Hill Acme was acquired, Sosnowski became a Vice President of Finance and Administration and went back to Sherwood, where he was head of Human Resources / Sosnowski retired from Sherwood in 2000 and went on to serve seven years as Business Administrator for Christ the King Catholic Church in Snyder / Sosnowski volunteered as an Assistant Scoutmaster for many years / Theodore S. Sosnowski passed away on 14 October



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Town of West Seneca, New York

2023 at the age of 81 years old

The 8th Infantry Division, ("Pathfinder") was an infantry division of the United States Army during the 20th century / The division served in World War I, World War II, and Operation Desert Storm / Initially activated in January 1918, the unit did not see combat during World War I and returned to the United States / Some units would serve in the American Expeditionary Force to Siberia / Activated again on 1 July 1940 as part of the build-up of military forces prior to the United States' entry into World War II, the division saw extensive action in the European Theatre of Operations / Following World War II, the division was moved to West Germany, where it remained stationed at the Rose Barracks in Bad Kreuznach until it was inactivated on 17 January 1992

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 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: SOUTER

A.

J.

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:

A. J. Souter honorably served in the United States Military / A. J. Souter 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: SPAETH
GERALD

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:

Gerald Spaeth honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Spaeth worked at General Motors for 30 years, retiring at the age of 49 years old / At the age of 60, Spaeth began sculpting car parts, leading to a ten-year tenure at Tamarack, West Virginia's premier fine arts gallery / Gerald Spaeth passed away at the VA Hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia on 20 February 2026 at the age of 84 years old and his remains will be cremated



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPATES**
CALVIN

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Calvin "Buddy" Spates honorably served in the United States Army / Sergeant Calvin Spates was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor under combat conditions / SGT Spates was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Calvin "Buddy" Spates passed away on 10 October 2025 at the age of 78 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

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



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SPAULDING

JACK

D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LT COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

LEGION OF MERIT MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Jack Douglas Spaulding honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LT COL Jack Spaulding was deployed to Vietnam as an Infantry Officer / LT COL Jack Spaulding died on 14 October 1966 as a result of a vehicle crash in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

LT COL Jack Spaulding died aboard the U.S. Hospital ship, Repose, of injuries received in a highway vehicle collision with a Vietnamese Army truck

LT COL Spaulding served for three years as an aide de camp to Marine Corps Commandant General Wallace M. Greene, Jr.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jack Spaulding graduated from Canisius College in 1948 / Jack Douglas Spaulding was 42 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Jack Douglas Spaulding is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 75



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operation



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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

of a combat V device

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: **SPEAKER**
KENNETH

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

Kenneth Speaker honorably served in the United States Army / Kenneth Speaker was deployed to Vietnam from January through December 1968 / Speaker received the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SPENCE, JR.

ALEX

A.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 801 HIGHLAND AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 162ND AVIATION 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:

Warrant Officer 1 Alex C. Spence, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Alex Spence was deployed to Vietnam on 16 August 1969 as an Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO1 Alex Spence died on 20 June 1970 from non-hostile action, air crash on land in Kien Hoa province, South Vietnam

Warrant Officer 1 Alec Spence was piloting his helicopter, UH-1C tail number 65-09454, when his aircraft hit trees on a gun run, crashed and burned / WO1 Spence perished in the helicopter crash

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alec Spence, Jr. was born in West Virginia, but raised in Buffalo / Alec Spence was a 1965 graduate of Burgard Vocational High School and attended Erie Community College / Spence worked at J & A Machine Company and the Chevrolet Motor Division of the General Motors Corp on River Road before he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 / Alex C. Spence, Jr. was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Alex C. Spence, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 75

Helicopter Pilots were skilled officers who controlled and flew the many helicopters operated by the Military



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Services / In the Vietnam War the helicopter became one of the most important elements in the daily operations of our war fighting successes / They were involved in every aspect of that war fighting, from medevac, to ammo, troop and supply delivery, to aerial fire support

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

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPENCER**

DANIEL

D.

Hometown: EAST CONCORD

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:

Daniel D. Spencer honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel D. Spencer passed away on 27 August 2025 at the age of 76 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPERANDEO**
BENEDETTO

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORP

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

INDIA COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 26TH REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Benedetto Sperandeo honorably served in the United States Marine Corp and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Benedetto Sperandeo was born in Termini Imerese, Palermo, Sicilia-Italia

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



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resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

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

The 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPINK**

DAVID M.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David M. Spink honorably served in the United States Army /David Spink was assigned as an Army Medic Corpsman

David Spink served in the U.S. Army from 1963-1964 and then recalled to active duty from 1968-1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Spink taught Physical Ed in Montreal, but returned to the US in 1968 / Spink was employed by the United States Postal Service until his retirement / David M. Spink passed away on 20 February 2026 at the age of 85 years old

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPOTH**

KENNETH R.

Hometown: SWORMVILLE

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:

Kenneth R. Spoth honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth R. Spoth passed away on 15 February 2023 at the age of 87 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPOTH**

RICHARD G.

Hometown: ANGOLA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTE BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Richard G. "Dick" Spoth honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Richard Spoth served as a member of the elite Airborne Green Beret Special Forces

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Richard Spoth worked as a Longshoreman before transitioning to a role as a Lineman for New York State Electrical & Gas / Richard Spoth started his own company, Spoth Enterprises, which specialized in residential wiring, later expanding to pump stations and traffic signals / Spoth established his first TowBoatUS port in Western New York at Sturgeon Point Marina with eventually a second location in the Buffalo Small Boat Harbor, providing invaluable assistance to boaters in distress / For his contribution to helping boaters, Richard Spoth was awarded the prestigious Captain David P. Dobbin's award issued by the US 9th Coast Guard District / In 1981, Spoth joined the Lake Erie Beach Volunteer Fire Co, eventually serving as Assistant Chief and Chief / Richard G. "Dick" Spoth passed away on 10 March 2025 at the age of 76 years old

The Airborne Green Beret Special Forces are small groups of highly trained officers and non-commissioned officers whose mission is to conduct "behind-the-lines" operations in enemy territory, reconnaissance, target acquisition and damage assessment, and precision strikes on strategic targets

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPRIEGEL**

DENNIS

A.

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Dennis A. Spriegel honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Spriegel graduated from West Seneca Senior High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Spriegel worked for national Fuel Gas Company until his retirement / Dennis A. Spriegel passed away on 3 October 2022 at the age of 75 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SROKA

JEROME T.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1964

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

GOOD CONDUCT

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

Service Notes:

Jerome T. Sroka honorably served in the United States Army / Jerome Sroka was trained as a Light Vehicle Driver at Fort Devens, Massachusetts

Jerome Sroka was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on 14 June 1964

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Jerome T. Sroka passed away on 4 August 2025 at the age of 83 years old

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SROKA**

RICHARD M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 117 QUINCY STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MACV, ADVISORY TEAM 88

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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:

Captain Richard Marion Sroka honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Richard Sroka was deployed to Vietnam as a Ranger Qualified Infantry Unit Commander / CPT Richard Sroka was Killed In Action on 13 July 1964 from multiple fragmentation wounds during combat operations when his convoy was ambushed along Highway 13, Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

The President of the United States of America presented the Silver Star (posthumously) to Captain (Field Artillery) Richard Marion Sroka, United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations in Vietnam on 13 July 1964, and serving as a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion

Captain Richard M. Sroka distinguished himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations in Vietnam on 13 July 1964 while serving as a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion / Upon learning that a district headquarters in a Vietnamese city was under heavy attack by a hostile force of approximately seven hundred, Captain Sroka unhesitatingly volunteered to participate in the support effort to relieve the besieged city / Sroka bravely placed himself in a lead position to advise his Vietnamese counterparts / As the support element neared its objective, when along Highway QL-13 ("Thunder Road") in Binh Long Province about 45 miles north of Saigon, Sroka and his support troops were suddenly ambushed by an overwhelming number of enemy troops which delivered a devastating volume of intense gun fire from well prepared positions / Then, with fortitude, determination and complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Sroka exposed himself to this barrage of weapons fire while assisting in reorganizing the unit and encouraging the friendly troops to



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pursue the objective / Although subjected to the onslaught of enemy gun fire, Sroka courageously continued his advisory efforts until mortally wounded / Total friendly losses were 31 killed, including Captain Richard Sroka, 25 wounded, 19 missing, 39 weapons lost, and 18 vehicles damaged or destroyed

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant after ROTC training in college, Sroka joined the regular army when he graduated / The Army sent Sroka to Chicago, Illinois where he earned a Master's Degree in Political Science / CPT Sroka trained at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a Ranger Paratrooper and trained in Monterey, California studying the Vietnamese language

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

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

Miscellaneous:

Richard Sroka attended St. John Kanty School and graduated from the Diocesan Preparatory School / Sroka graduated from St. Bonaventure University in 1959 with a degree in Journalism / Sroka was a summer reporter for the Courier Express before entering military service / Richard Marion Sroka was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Roselawn Cemetery, Pueblo, Colorado

Richard Marion Sroka is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 01e, Line 58

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 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



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in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STACHELSKI

EDWARD J.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Edward J. Stachelski honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Stachelski graduated from Bishop Fallon High School and the University of Buffalo Edward Stachelski was retired from the Delaware North Company / Edward J. Stachelski passed away on 14 May 2025 at the age of 89 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STACHOWSKI**
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 Stachowski honorably served in the United States Military / David Stachowski was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STACHURA**
GEORGE F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

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 Fifth-Class George F. Stachura honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 George Stachurai was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STADNIK**
WALTER

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:

Walter Stadnik honorably served in the United States Military / Walter Stadnik was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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: **STAHL**

Hometown: HAMBURG

ROBERT L.

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

502ND ADMINISTRATION COMPANY, 2ND ARMORED DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert L. Stahl honorably served in the United States Army / Robert Stahl served 24 months active duty trained as a Personnel Specialist with the 502nd Administration Company, 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas

Robert Stahl was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on 24 October 1967 with reserve obligation ending 24 October 1971

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Robert Stahl worked and retired from Bethlehem Steel, Lackawanna, New York / Robert L. Stahl passed away on 21 July 2025 at the age of 80 years old

The 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels") was an armored division of the United States Army. The division



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played important roles during World War II in the invasions of Germany, North Africa, and Sicily and in the liberation of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands / During the Cold War, the division was primarily based at Fort Hood, Texas, and had a reinforced brigade forward stationed in Garlstedt, West Germany / After participation in the Persian Gulf War, the division was inactivated in 1995

Name: STANIASZEK

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

DANIEL J.

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:

Daniel J. Staniaszek honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Staniaszek was a retiree of the Ford Motor Company / Daniel J. Staniaszek passed away at the age of 78 years old on 8 July 2023 and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STANKE**

RONALD A.

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:

Ronald August Stanke honorably served in the United States Navy / Ronald Stanke served aboard the amphibious force command ship, USS Mt. McKinley

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Ronald Stanke was employed with Trico in Buffalo / In 1991, Ronald Stanke founded Grand Island Enterprises and worked until his retirement / Stanke played a significant role in the development and support of the Miracle League WNY and the Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion / Ronald Stanke was a member of the Rotary Club of Grand Island and assisted the Neighbors Foundation, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, the Zonta Foundation, and many other charities / Ronald August Stanke passed away on 15 January 2022 at the age of 81 years old

USS Mount McKinley (AGC-7/LCC-7) was the lead ship of the Mount McKinley class of amphibious force command ships / She was named after the highest mountain in North America / She was designed as an amphibious force flagship, a floating command post with advanced communications equipment and extensive combat information spaces to be used by the amphibious force's commander and landing force commander during large-scale operations / The USS Mount McKinley was commissioned on 1 May 1944 / On 28 September 1944, the Mount McKinley joined the Pacific Fleet and sailed to proceed to Ngesebus Island to provide shore bombardment coordination / Mount McKinley left the area 14 October 1944 after Peleliu and the chain's other main islands were secure / After a stop at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, the ship sailed to San Pedro Bay, Leyte Gulf, for the assault on Leyte and Ormoc / While in San Pedro Bay, the force was under constant air attack, but Mount McKinley was not hit / On 15 December 1944, the ship participated in the invasion of Mindoro and proceeded to Lingayen Gulf to direct shore bombardment on 9 January 1945 / On 21 March 1945, Mount



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McKinley proceeded to Kerama Retto off the southern coast of Okinawa / Six days prior to the last major assault of the war, Mount McKinley directed the landing of the 77th Infantry Division / For the next two months, she remained at anchorage at Kerama Retto, threatened by constant air attacks, before returning to Pearl Harbor / Returning to the United States 12 February 1946, she sailed in the early summer for Bikini Atoll where she was flagship for Operation Crossroads, during the atomic tests. Following the atomic bomb tests in July 1946, the ship operated out of San Diego for the next 18 months / In early 1948, she was the command ship for the atomic bomb test at Eniwetok / Upon completion of these tests, she returned to San Diego to resume coastal operations / On 26 June 1950, the ship proceeded from Japan to direct the landing of American reinforcements at Pohang at the beginning of the Korean War / In early September 1950, General Douglas MacArthur was aboard, directing the amphibious assault at Inchon which forced the North Koreans to retreat north / The Mount McKinley participated in three tours of duty in the Korean War area / On 3 June 1956, the ship returned to San Diego and on 9 January 1957, the ship deployed to the Mediterranean / In October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Mount McKinley served at flagship for ComPhibLant and ComPhibGru / Following the Cuban quarantine, she sailed for the Mediterranean 10 January 1963 to act as command flagship for the Amphibious Strike Force / During the Vietnam War, the USS Mount McKinley was the flagship of the Commander, 7th Fleet Amphibious Force / She provided communications support for search and destroy operations against the Vietcong and People's Army of Vietnam forces / Relieved in mid-January 1968, the ship sailed east for CONUS and home, arriving San Diego 10 February 1968 / The ship's designation was changed from AGC-7 to LCC-7 on 1 January 1969 / Following her arrival back in CONUS, she was engaged in type training and amphibious exercises on the west coast as flagship of ComPhibGru 3 into 1969 / Mount McKinley was decommissioned on 26 March 1970 and stricken on 30 July 1976 / She was sold for disposal in 1976 / Mount McKinley received four battle stars for World War II service, eight stars for Korean service, and a Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation



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Name: **STANKIEWICZ**

KENNETH D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Kenneth David Stankiewicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Kenneth Stankiewicz was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Kenneth Stankiewicz was Killed In Action on 18 August 1965 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations at An Cuong 2 Namyen Hill 30, Quang Tin province, South Vietnam

Operation STARLITE began in the early morning hours of 18 August 1965 with Company H landing by helicopter in the vicinity of Hill 41, with a search and destroy mission towards the hamlets of An Cuong and Nam Yen in the Binh Son District of Quang Ngai Province / Approaching the hamlet, the Marines began receiving heavy fire from an entrenched enemy force; supporting arms and reinforcement were called in as the battle to clear the enemy from their defensive positions continued throughout the day / By the end of the day when the fire fights subsided, the Marines had cleared the enemy consolidating their positions and their casualties were evacuated / The Company had suffered many losses during the battle, and LCPL Kenneth Stankiewicz was one of the casualties, killed by hostile rifle fire

LCPL Kenneth D. Stankiewicz was presented with the Silver Star Medal posthumously for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with Company H, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, THIRD Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 August 1965 / Observing his squad leader lying wounded with a pack of explosives smoldering upon his back and fearlessly moved from his covered position to



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drag the burning explosives away from his squad leader/ Stankiewicz then continued to expose himself to increasing hostile small arms and mortar fire in order to deliver accurate fire upon the enemy positions, pinning them down and allowing the successful evacuation of his squad leaders and three other wounded men / Later that day he was mortally wounded by enemy fire while being evacuated

Base Assignments:

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

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

Kenneth Stankiewicz attended Kenmore East Senior High School, completing his high school education while in the service / Stankiewicz enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 29 August 1963 / Kenneth David Stankiewicz was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Kenneth David Stankiewicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 02e, Line 61

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

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG)



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forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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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



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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: STANKIEWICZ

STANLEY J.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Stanley John Stankiewicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Stanley Stankiewicz was assigned as a Combat Engineer / PFC Stankiewicz was stationed in South Vietnam for 13 months

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley John "Renegade" Stankiewicz was a member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) and the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club (VVMC) / Stanley John Stankiewicz passed away on 20 October 2021

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STARR

FLOYD

E.

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:

Floyd E. Starr honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Floyd Starr retired from General Motors / Floyd E. Starr passed away on 8 October 2025 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STAWARSKI

Hometown: WEST SENECA

TED J.

Address: ORCHARD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

1ST ARMORED DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL / 2 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist (E-4) Ted J. Stawarski honorably served in the United States Army / SP Ted Stawarski was deployed to Vietnam during the Tet Offensive and served as a Power Plant Engineer at Camp Holloway in Pleiku from January 1968 through August 1969

Base Assignments:

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

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - The base was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for Union Civil War general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s in recognition of the Belvoir plantation that once occupied the site, but the adjacent United States Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys Engineer Center retains part of the original name / Fort Belvoir was initially the home of the Army Engineer School prior to its relocation in the 1980s to Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri / Fort Belvoir serves as the headquarters for the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Acquisition University, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Defense Technical Information Center, the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, the United States Army Military Intelligence Readiness Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, all agencies of the United States Department of Defense



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Fort Hood, Texas - Located in Killeen, Texas, the United States Army post was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood and is the largest military base in the world (by area) with more than 215,000 acres / During the late 1960's, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the fort's divisions

Camp Holloway, Pleiku, Vietnam - Camp Holloway was a United States Army helicopter base at Pleiku in the Central Highlands of Vietnam from 1962 through the early 1970s / The camp was named in 1963 for CH-21 helicopter pilot Warrant Officer Charles E. Holloway, who in December 1962, became the first aviator assigned to the 81st Transportation Company to be killed in action / At its peak, Camp Holloway was home to two additional UH-1 "Huey" assault helicopter companies, a CH-47 "Chinook" company, an O-1 Bird Dog reconnaissance airplane company, a CH-54 "Skycrane" company, and other supporting units

Miscellaneous:

Prior to his enlistment in the Army, Ted Stawarski graduated from Hutchinson Central Technical High School, (informally known as Hutch-Tech) in Buffalo / Following an Honorable Discharge from the Army, Stawarski was employed by Buffalo Forge Company

The Tet Offensive was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched on 30 January 1968, by forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam against the forces of the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam, the United States Armed Forces, and their allies / It was a campaign of surprise attacks against military and civilian command and control centers throughout South Vietnam / Though initial attacks stunned both the US and South Vietnamese armies, causing them to temporarily lose control of several cities, they quickly regrouped, beat back the attacks, and inflicted heavy casualties on North Vietnamese forces / The name of the offensive comes from the Tết holiday, the Vietnamese New Year, when the first major attacks took place

The 1st Armored Division, nicknamed "Old Ironsides", is a combined arms division of the United States Army / The division is part of III Armored Corps and operates out of Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas / It was the first armored division of the United States Army to see battle in World War II / Since World War II, the division has been involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Persian Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and several other operations / The division has also received numerous awards and recognition

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEARNS**
JAMES

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

James Stearns honorably served in the United States Military / James Stearns 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: **STEC**

DONALD

G.

Hometown: ELMA

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 G. Stec honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Stec was a long-time volunteer for Meals on Wheels / Donald G. Stec passed away on 24 October 2024 at the age of 81 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEFFANS**
EDWARD

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 396 TONAWANDA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private Edward Steffans honorably served in the United States Army

The brother of Edward Steffans, Marine Corps Private Marshall George Steffans, was Killed In Action on 2 July 1967 as a result of wounds suffered from small arms fire when ambushed on Route 56,1 NE of Con Thien, Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STEFFANS

MARSHALL G.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 396 TONAWANDA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private Marshall George Steffans honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Marshall Steffans was deployed to Vietnam in October 1966 as a Mortarman / PVT Marshall Steffans was Killed In Action on 2 July 1967 as a result of wounds suffered from small arms fire when ambushed on Route 56,1 NE of Con Thien, Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Marshall Steffans attended Burgard High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1965 / Marshall George Steffans was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Marshall George Steffans is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 115

A Mortarman is a soldier who operates a firing device called a mortar / Mortarmen in the U.S. Marines are the unit that's mainly responsible for the tactical employment of the 60 mm light mortar and the 81 mm medium mortar



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

MICHAEL C.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT 2

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 3RD BATTALION, 35TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private Second-Class Michael C. Steiger honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Michael Steiger was assigned as a Cannoneer and served 15 months of foreign duty in Germany, attached to Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 35th Artillery Regiment, US Army Europe

Private Michael Steiger received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 26 October 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael C. Steiger moved to Canandaigua, New York where he passed away on 15 September 2023 at the age of 63 years old

A Cannoneer commands or assists the commander of field artillery units; plan, coordinates, and directs field artillery activities within the command; serves in positions requiring knowledge of field artillery systems, experience at various staff levels; directs technical fire control and firing operations using both manual and computer techniques; coordinates the collective employment of joint and combined fire support assets to include non-lethal systems in support of the combined arms commander; participates in the planning and development of doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and soldier initiatives to support the field artillery's role in combined arms operations

A Headquarters and Headquarters company (HHC) is a company-sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within



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one company / In identifying a specific headquarters unit, it is usually referred to by its abbreviation as an HHC / While a regular line company is formed of three or four platoons, an HHC is made up of the headquarters staff and headquarters support personnel of a battalion, brigade, division, or higher level unit / As these personnel do not fall inside one of the regular line companies of the battalion, brigade, or division, the HHC is the unit to which they are administratively assigned / The typical personnel strength of an average HHC is 80 to 110

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: **STEIN**

RICHARD H.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard H. Stein honorably served in the United States Army Reserve

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Stein joined the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance as a Tax Examiner in 1963 in the Buffalo District Office and was promoted to Senior Corporation Tax Examiner in 1972 and Associate Corporation Tax Examiner in 1974 / Stein was later promoted to Principal Corporation Tax Examiner/Corporation Tax Section Head in 1981 and Tax Administrator in 1989 and then two years later he was promoted to District Audit Manager of the Buffalo District Office / Richard Stein retired in 1997 after 34 years of service with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Richard H. Stein passed away on 7 October 2025 at the age of 87 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEINER III**

JOSEPH R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 142 ORLANDO STREET

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Joseph R. Steiner, III honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Joseph Steiner was deployed to Vietnam as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SGT Joseph Steiner was Killed In Action on 17 August 1968 as a result of wounds suffered when the M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier he was aboard was destroyed by a detonated 8-inch howitzer round during military operations in Binh Dinh province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



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Joseph Steiner Steiner was a 1965 graduate of South Park High School / Steiner worked for Bethlehem Steel in Lackawanna and was a member of the United Steel Workers of America, AFL-CIO / Steiner entered the Army in September 1967 / Joseph R. Steiner, III was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Joseph R. Steiner, III is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48w, Line 35

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

The 69th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The 69th Armor Regiment is part of the U.S. Army Regimental System / The 1st Battalion was deployed to South Vietnam on 25 January 1966 with the Battalion laying over in Okinawa to take over 52 new M48A3 tanks and familiarize crews with the new series, AN-GRC 12 radios / "A" Company was committed within two hours of its disembarking from LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) in Saigon as a reaction force to combat in the Filhol Rubber Plantation west of Saigon / The battalion's first major combat operation took place in April 1966 in the tangled jungle growth of the Ho Bo Woods and along the trails of the Filhol Rubber plantation northwest of Saigon / This operation proved the value of armor in reducing friendly casualties while significantly increasing losses to the enemy / 69th Armor tankers learned on-the-job the importance of rear and flank security, the effect of canister in dense jungle, the exaggerated needs for constant maintenance halts / "A" Company completed its mission with the 1st Cavalry in October 1967 and returned to Camp Enari with Battalion HQ / "A" Company was charged with the security of Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Pass, and on 10 April 1968, routed a regimental size ambush attempt on a convoy by the 95B Regiment killing 45 Viet Cong and capturing seven crew-served weapons; U.S. losses were one killed / The battalion continued operations west of Pleiku and along the coastal plain during 1969 with both the 4th Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade / The 1st Battalion stood down with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and returned to the U.S. in mid-1970 / The unit and its component line companies were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Award, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Vietnam Civic Action Award First Class

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEINKIRCHNER**

JAMES L.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 130 BURNS COURT

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

AMERICAL DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 16TH ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

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:

Specialist Fourth-Class James Lewis Steinkirchner honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 James Steinkirchner was deployed to Vietnam on 23 June 1970 as a Field Artillery Basic / SP4 James Steinkirchner died on 27 February 1971 from a non-hostile accident in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

Landing Zone (LZ) Snoopy was an Americal firebase located along National Highway QL-1 in Quang Ngai Province, RVN / Among the munitions fired from Snoopy were white phosphorus rounds / White phosphorus is employed as a smoke, illumination, or incendiary munition, and burns at a temperature of up to 2,760 degrees Celsius (5,000 degrees Fahrenheit) / On 27 February 1971, a white phosphorus mortar round prematurely detonated at the LZ, fatally injuring three artillerymen from A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery / The lost personnel were PFC Dennis L. Craver, SP4 John A. Cukale Jr., and SP4 James L. Steinkirchner

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Steinkirchner was a graduate of Cardinal O'Hara High School / Steinkirchner was employed by the Town of Tonawanda Highway Department before he entered the U.S. Army on 17 July 1969 / James Lewis Steinkirchner was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

James Lewis Steinkirchner is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 9



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

The Americal Division was an infantry division of the United States Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The division was activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia / In the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, the United States had hurriedly sent a task force to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II / The new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" / This was unusual, as with the exception of the Philippine Division, all other U.S. divisions were known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division, but was rarely referred to as such, even on official orders / During the Vietnam War the division had a mixed record / It combined participation in numerous battles and campaigns / The division suffered a tactical defeat in the early morning of 28 March 1971, when Vietcong sapper commandos successfully infiltrated FSB Mary Ann / The attack destroyed key infrastructure, as well as killing 33 and wounding 83 Americans / The division was deactivated following its withdrawal from South Vietnam in November 1971

The 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery battalion assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division / Carrying the lineage of Battery C, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, the battalion carries campaign streamers from World War I, World War II, and Vietnam, and has served with the 4th Infantry Division and 8th Infantry Division / The unit's nickname is "Rolling Thunder", and their motto is "Macte Nova Virtute" (Go Forth With New Strength) / The battalion is composed of a headquarters and headquarters battery (HHB), three cannon batteries (Batteries A, B, and C), and has an attached Forward Support Company, Company F, 15th Brigade Support Battalion / 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery participated in the Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer–Fall 1969; Winter–Spring 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; and Counteroffensive, Phase VII; Consolidation I / The unit was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEINKIRCHNER
LAWRENCE**

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 130 BURNS COURT

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private Lawrence Steinkirchner honorably served in the United States Army

The brother of Lawrence Steinkirchner, Army Specialist Fourth-Class James Lewis Steinkirchner, died on 27 February 1971 from a non-hostile accident (premature detonation of a white phosphorus round) in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEPHEN**

CHARLES

W.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Charles W. Stephen honorably served in the United States Air Force / Charles Stephen was a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles W. Stephan was born in Buffalo and attended Alden High School / After his military enlistment was completed, Stephan returned to Moog Inc. in East Aurora as an Apprentice Machinist / After his advancement to a Tool and Die Machinist, Stephen retired in 2007 as a Supervisor / Stephen was an avid train collector and enthusiastic outdoorsman / Both Stephen and his wife of 35 years, Mary Kathleen Horn, raised three children, one daughter and two sons / Charles W. Stephen passed away on 3 November 2016



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STERLACE**

ROBERT

A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert A. Sterlace honorably served in the United States Military and was deployed to Vietnam (NO OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STERNS

JOANNE R,

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1974

Year Discharged: 1996

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Joanne R. Dye Sterns honorably served in the United States Army Reserve as a Hand Grenade Instructor

Before serving in the United States Army Reserve, Joanne Sterns served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps from 1955-1958

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joanne R. Dye Sterns worked for the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center, retiring after 30 years / After retirement, Sterns has volunteered over 20 years at the Buffalo VA Center



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STETTER**

RONALD T.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address: 104 DONNA LEA DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2LT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Second Lieutenant Ronald Thomas Stetter honorably served in the United States Army / 2nd LT Ronald Stetter was deployed to Vietnam on 2 March 1968 as an Infantry Unit Commander (Airborne Qualified) / 2LT Ronald Stetter was Killed In Action on 25 April 1968 from enemy small arms fire during the Tet Offensive in the A Shau Valley, along Highway 547, 15 km SW of Hue, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

2LT Stetter graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS), Fort Benning, Georgia in 1967 and attended Jungle Warfare School, Fort Davis, Canal Zone in February 1968 before being deployed to Vietnam

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

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Ronald Stetter attended Christ the King School / Stetter graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1964 and was an Eagle Scout in Troop 65 / Ronald Stetter attended Canisius College before enlisting in the U.S. Army in July 1965 / Ronald Thomas Stetter was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Ronald Thomas Stetter is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 52e, Line 12

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STETTER JR**

CHARLES

G.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address: 104 DONNA LEA DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private Charles G. Stetter, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

The brother of Charles Stetter, Army Second Lieutenant Ronald Stetter, was Killed In Action on 25 April 1968 from enemy small arms fire along Highway 547, 15 km SW of Hue, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STEVENSON

ROBERT S.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered: 1958

Year Discharged: 1960

Unit / Squadron:

7TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Robert Shaun Stevenson honorably served in the United States Army and was stationed in Chofu, South Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Stevenson graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1967 / Stevenson was employed by the New York Telephone Company from 1969-1983 / Robert Stevenson then went to work for AT&T in 1990 as a Sales Account Executive-Financial Consultant until 1996 / Stevenson later went to work for the Sweet Home School District as a Bus Driver in 1996 until his retirement in 2016 / Robert Shaun Stevenson passed away on 5 December 2023 at the age of 87 years old

The 7th Infantry fought in the Pacific Ocean theater of World War II where it took heavy casualties engaging the Imperial Japanese Army in the Aleutian Islands, Leyte, and Okinawa / During World War II, soldiers of the 7th Infantry Division were awarded three Medals of Honor, 26 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, 982 Silver Star Medals, 33 Legion of Merit Medals, 50 Soldier's Medals, 3,853 Bronze Star Medals, and 178 Air Medals / The division received four campaign streamers and a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation during the war



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEWARD**
ALTON L.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (M-14 RIFLE)

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Alton L. Steward honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Alton Steward was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months where he served as a Cargo Handler and Troop Leader

Alton Steward received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 13 September 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alton Steward was born in Kelford, North Carolina and spent part of his childhood in Virginia's Tidewater region / Steward was a medal-winning athlete at Southwestern High School in Windsor, North Carolina / Alton Steward was a retired educational support staff member and an assistant softball and basketball coach in Buffalo schools / Alton Steward worked for Seneca Plumbing, Anaconda American Brass and the Buffalo Parks Department, where he was supervisor of Centennial Pool in the mid-1970's / Alton L. Steward passed away on 15 March 2019 due to exposure to Agent Orange

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

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



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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STEWART

JAMES E.

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 E. Stewart honorably served in the United States Navy / James Stewart served 4 years in the Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Stewart was a retiree and member of Union Local #41, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I. B. E. W.) / James E. Stewart passed away on 10 December 2012



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEWART
LAWRENCE**

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 99 EAST UTICA STREET

- Vietnam Era*
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Lawrence Stewart honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Lawrence Stewart was deployed to Vietnam on 25 August 1967 as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Lawrence Stewart died on 15 December 1967 when an American artillery shell fell short on his position while serving in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

LCPL Lawrence Stewart was a Machine Gunner serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division / On 15 December 1967, LCPL Stewart was on a platoon-sized patrol in Thua Thien Province, RVN, when two rounds of friendly artillery landed near their position / The two shells, believed to come from the direction of Camp Evans, wounded four members of the patrol, including Stewart / He was medivacked with two others / LCPL Stewart later died as a result of fragmentation wounds to the head at Naval Support Activity Station Hospital in Da Nang, South Vietnam

LCPL Lawrence Stewart has been wounded on two previous occasions during military operations

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

Lawrence Stewart attended School 36 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June 1966 / Lawrence Stewart was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Lawrence Stewart is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32e, Line 6

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

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

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for



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47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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: **STIDHAM**

AURORA

M.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1954

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Captain Aurora M. (nee Mondo) Stidham honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

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

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

Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C. - The Washington Navy Yard (WNY) is the former shipyard and ordnance plant of the United States Navy in Southeast Washington, D.C / It is the oldest shore establishment of



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the U.S. Navy and was established on 2 October 1799 / The Yard currently serves as a ceremonial and administrative center for the U.S. Navy, home to the Chief of Naval Operations, and is headquarters for the Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Reactors, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Naval History and Heritage Command, Navy Installations Command, the National Museum of the United States Navy, the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, Marine Corps Institute, the United States Navy Band, and other more classified facilities

Miscellaneous:

Aurora M. Stidham was born in Utica, New York to Italian immigrants / Stidham graduated from Thomas Proctor High School in 1949 and earned a scholarship to Syracuse University where she majored in Sociology / Stidham enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954 / Aurora M. (nee Mondo) Stidham passed away on 12 February 2024 after a short illness at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Williamsville Cemetery, Williamsville, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STOCK**
MICHAEL

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Michael Stock honorably served in the United States Military / Micahel Stock 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: STOCK

PATRICK J.

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:

Patrick J. Stock honorably served in the United States Military / Patrick Stock was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STOCKMAN

EARL

L.

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

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:

Earl Lawrence Stockman honorably served four years in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Earl Stockman was employed by American Airlines for over 34 years / Stockman moved to La Crescent, Minnesota / Earl Lawrence "Larry" Stockman passed away on 9 July 2024 at the age of 81 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STOFFEL**

DONALD T.

Hometown: ALDEN

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SMSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Senior Master Sergeant Donald T. Stoffel honorably served in the United States Air Force / SMSGT Donald Stoffel served for 24 years in the Air Force as a Loadmaster Superintendent

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Stoffel worked for American Axel / Donald T. Stoffel passed away on 7 June 2024 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Aircraft Loadmaster Superintendent is responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities of aircrew members involved in cargo loading and unloading operations / This role requires extensive knowledge of aircraft loading procedures, weight and balance calculations, and safety regulations

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STOKLOSA**
MICHAEL

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STRATE

JOHN

D.

Hometown: ALDEN

Address: 13699 BROADWAY

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John Delbert Strate honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Strate was deployed to Vietnam on 5 February 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 John Strate was Killed In Action on 16 August 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds as a result of enemy mortar fire in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



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is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

Miscellaneous:

John Strate was born in Keokuk, Iowa / Strate graduated from Alden Central School and attended Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan before entering the U.S. Army in 1967 / John Delbert "Chapman" Strate was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa

John Delbert Strate is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48w, Line 31

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

The 12th Cavalry is a cavalry regiment of the United States Army / It is currently stationed at Fort Cavazos, formerly known as Fort Hood / On 2 February 1901, Congress authorized the organization of the Twelfth Regiment of Cavalry, Army of the United States / Under this authority, the regiment was formed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on 8 February 1901 / During World War II, the 2nd Battalion saw its first combat on Los Negros Island in March 1944 and also participated in the invasion of the Philippines / The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and fought the division's first engagement from 18 to 20 September 1965 as part of Operation Gibraltar / On 2 February 1968 during the Battle of Hue, the battalion was deployed from Camp Evans to PK-17 to launch an attack towards La Chu to close off the PAVN supply routes west of Hue / The battalion participated in the Cambodian Incursion and earned its 16th campaign streamer for the Sanctuary Counteroffensive / On 26 March 1971, the battalion stood down after five and a half years in Vietnam and returned to the United States at Fort Hood, Texas

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



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

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

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The 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



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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: **STRAUB**
CHARLES

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:

Charles Straub honorably served in the United States Military / Charles Straub was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STRAW

MICHAEL R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE

RVN CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM & FRAME

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Michael Richard "Mike" Straw honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SSGT Michael Straw was assigned as a Special Communications Operator and was deployed overseas for three years

SSGT Michael Straw received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 25 June 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Richard "Mike" Straw passed away on 24 June 2017 at the age of 67 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

Headquarters Battalion provides communications and information systems network, motor transportation, security, administration and personnel support to the 1st Marine Division in order to facilitate the Division's ability to command and control / 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 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 1st Marine Division 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



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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: STREEBEL JR

KENNETH J.

Hometown: ANGOLA

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:

Kenneth J. Streebel Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth J. Streebel Jr. passed away on 26 March 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STRESING

JOHN L.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John L. Stresing honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Stresing was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Stresing was a retired steel mill worker

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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STRIBICK**

EDWARD

G

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: SENECA CREEK ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1964

Unit / Squadron:

35TH ARTILLERY AIR DEFENSE (AD)

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 17TH ARTILLERY GROUP

Medals / Citations:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth Class Edward G. Stribick honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Edward Stribick was a Missile Master Crewman in the Army Air Defense Command (AADC)

Base Assignments:

Fort George G. Meade, Maryland - Located in Maryland, midway between the cities of Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington, DC, Fort George G. Meade's primary mission is to provide a wide range of services to 95 partner organizations from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as to several federal agencies including the National Security Agency, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the Defense Information School, the Defense Courier Service, the U.S. Army Field Band and most recently the U.S. Cyber Command / Initially called Camp Annapolis Junction, the post was opened as "Camp Admiral" in 1917 and renamed Camp Meade Cantonment by 1918 / The post was originally named Camp Meade for Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade, whose victory at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 proved a major factor in turning the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North / During World War II, Fort Meade was used as a recruit training post and prisoner of war camp, in addition to a holding center for approximately 384 Japanese, German, and Italian immigrant residents of the U.S. arrested as potential fifth columnists / The Second U.S. Army Headquarters transferred to the post on June 15, 1947 and in 1957, the post became headquarters of the National Security Agency / From the 1950s until the 1970s, the Fort Meade radar station had various radar equipment and control systems for air defense and had the first Nike Ajax surface-to-air missiles in December 1953

Miscellaneous:

Edward G. Stribick has been a member of the West Seneca American Legion Post #735 for forty-six years



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STROBECK, JR.
STANLEY

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Stanley Strobeck, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Stanley Strobeck was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley Strobeck was a member of the Knights of Columbus 2nd Degree Knight, American Legion Post #60, and Veterans of Foreign Wars V.F.W. Post #898 / Stanley Strobeck, Jr. passed away on 6 May 2016

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STROBEL**

WILLIAM E.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address: 268 SPRINGVILLE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY, TROOP C

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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 William Eric Strobel honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 William Strobel was deployed to Vietnam on 27 September 1966 as a Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman / SP4 William Strobel died on 9 July 1967 as a result of a non-hostile air crash in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 9 July 1967, SP4 William Strobel was on-board Army helicopter UH-1D, Tail Number 63-08776 when the aircraft commander reported having engine trouble and started a forced landing / Because the engine's RPM was low, the aircraft hit the ground hard and rolled on its right side / Suspected cause of the accident was engine failure / The crash cost the life of Crew Chief SP4 William E. Strobel / Of the other eight persons onboard the aircraft (three crew members and five passengers), only one was uninjured in the crash

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Strobel was a graduate of McKinley Vocational School / Strobel attended Wanakena Ranger School in Wanakena, New York and served as a Forest Ranger in Warrensburg, New York before entering the U.S. Army in March 1966 / William Eric Strobel was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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William Eric Strobel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23e, Line 39

A Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with how to fix the various systems on a helicopter including the fuel, electrical, and hydraulic system / During training, they learn how to properly disassemble and repair the engine / The Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with the repair and installation of aircraft subsystem assemblies / These assemblies can include engines, main rotor head, hydraulic pump, transmissions, gearboxes, rotors, and mechanical flight controls

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

The 9th Cavalry was organized on 21 September 1866 at Greenville, Louisiana / In the 1870s and the 1880s, the 9th Cavalry fought with great distinction throughout the western United States in numerous campaigns against marauding American Indians, Mexicans, and lawless settlers / The 9th participated in operations during World War II and the Korea War / On 15 September 1965, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry arrived in the Republic of Vietnam and began operations as the divisional air cavalry squadron for the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry participated in such pivotal battles as the Ia Drang Valley, Khe Sahn, Binh Dinh, and Quang Tri/ The Squadron was the first unit of the 1st Cavalry Division to capture North Vietnamese Soldiers with C Troop taking three prisoners on 30 October near Pleiku / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry remained in Vietnam until 28 June 1971 / It is estimated that the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was responsible for 50 percent of all enemy Soldiers killed by the 1st Cavalry Division during the war / It was for this reason that the Squadron earned the nickname "The Headhunters" / Three Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam

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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

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: **STRONG**
JAMES

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

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:

James Strong honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James strong was a 1955 graduate of South Park High School / James Strong served in Law Enforcement for over 30 years



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STRUEBEL**

GEORGE

D.

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:

George D. Struebel honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George Struebel was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and a Master Docent at Graycliff / George D. Struebel passed away on 16 November 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STWORZYDLAK

DANIEL 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: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Daniel E. Stworzydlak honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Stworzydlak was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Hamburg Township Post #1419 and a member of the VFW Color Guard / Daniel E. Stworzydlak passed away on 24 October 2023 and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SUDBRINK**
ROBERT

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 2ND BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 508TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

2 OVERSEAS BARS

ARMY PARACHUTE BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-60 MACHINE GUN)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Robert Sudbrink honorably served in the United States Army / Robert Sudbrink was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months and while on duty, saved a child from a burning hut, for which he received the prestigious Solder's Medal

Robert Sudbrink was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 21 December 1971

Base Assignments:

Miscelleaneous:

Robert Sudbrink passed away on 24 May 2021

The 508th Infantry Regiment ("Red Devils" or "Fury from the Sky") is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army, first formed in October 1942 during World War II / The 508th Parachute Infantry is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy between 6 and 9 June 1944, during the invasion of France / The Regiment landed by parachute shortly after 0200 hours, 6 June 1944 / The regiment secured its objectives through heroic determination and initiative / Every member performed his duties with exemplary aggressiveness and superior skill / The courage and devotion to duty shown by members of the 508th Parachute Infantry are worthy of emulation and reflect the highest traditions of the Army of the United States / The regiment served in combat during World War II, and regimental elements have served in combat in the



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Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SULLIVAN

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 79 FREMONT AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

67TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL (SMBL)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT 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 (E-4) Michael Joseph Sullivan honorably served in the United States Army as an Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Joseph Sullivan was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SULLIVAN

PAUL

F.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CSCS

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

USS PUGET SOUND (AD-38)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (CUBA)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Commissaryman Senior Chief Petty Officer Paul Francis Sullivan honorably served in the United States Navy / CSCS Paul Sullivan was assigned to the ship's Commissary as a Chef

Base Assignments:

Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Station Newport (NAVSTA Newport) is a United States Navy base located in the city of Newport and the town of Middletown, Rhode Island / Naval Station Newport is home to the Naval War College and the Naval Justice School / The Newport Training Station was founded in 1883 and was intended to provide education for young men and boys for a ten month period / Naval Station Newport hosts approximately 50 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US Army Reserve commands and activities; it is one of the Navy's most important stateside training facilities and includes Officer Training School

Miscellaneous:

Paul F. Sullivan was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

USS Puget Sound (AD-38) was a Samuel Gompers-class destroyer tender, the second ship of the United States Navy to bear the name Puget Sound / Commissioned on 27 April 1968, she served almost 29 years until decommissioned on 27 January 1996 / Puget Sound was designated to perform repairs and maintenance of the U.S. Navy's shore and seagoing equipment / Serving in the Atlantic Fleet for her life span, she was homeported in Newport, Rhode Island; Gaeta, Italy; and Norfolk, Virginia / The USS Puget Sound also participated in Operation Prime Chance, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, transported Kurdish refugees in Operation Provide Comfort, and participated in Operation Restore Hope / Instrumental to keeping the Atlantic Fleet afloat



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and mobile, she has repaired and resupplied most ships stationed or serving in the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and Persian Gulf / The USS Puget Sound was decommissioned on 2 January 1996 and scrapped in February 2009

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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SULZBACH**

DENNIS

M.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 174TH INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Dennis M. Sulzbach honorably served in the United States Army National Guard, serving for 6 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis M. Sulzbach passed away on 31 December 2025 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The 174th Infantry Brigade is an infantry brigade of the United States Army based at the Fort Dix entity of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey / A multi-component training unit, the brigade provides operational training and increased readiness for units in the continental Northeast / The brigade was deployed for both World War I and World War II / Reorganized and redesignated numerous times, the 174th Infantry Brigade has been a reserve unit of the United States Army for most of its existence, seeing only short stints in the Active Duty forces and a combat role

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SUMMERS**
RICHARD

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

573RD TRANSPORTATION DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (SP-4) Richard Summers honorably served in the United States Army as a Clerk Typist

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Summers was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

The 573rd Transportation Detachment was the very important maintenance unit within the 33rd Transportation Company, 118th Assault Helicopter Company / Normally commanded by a Transportation Corps officer, the Detachment was responsible for all the second and third echelon level maintenance on the helicopters / The front line maintenance was accomplished by the Crew Chief / Then he was backed up and supported by the 573rd Transportation Detachment

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SWACK**

RICHARD A.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

ALL-WEATHER FIGHTER ATTACK TRAINING SQUADRON-202, MARINE CORPS TRAINING GROUP-20, 2ND MARINE AIR WING

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/PALM

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Richard A. Swack honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Richard Swack was classified an Aircraft Communications/Navigation System Technician during 12 months of active duty in Vietnam servicing Grumman A-6 Intruders / LCPL Swack trained for seven months in Avionics Fundamentals Training

Richard A. Swack was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps on 30 September 1970

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina - MCAS Cherry Point is a United States Marine Corps airfield located in Havelock, North Carolina, in the eastern part of the state / Cherry Point was built in 1941, and was commissioned in 1942 and is currently home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing / Cherry Point's primary World War II mission was to train units and individual Marines for service to the Pacific theater / The air station also served as a base for anti-submarine operations, with an Army Air Corps (22d Antisubmarine Squadron) and later a Navy squadron each being responsible for the sinking of a German U-boat just off the North Carolina coast during 1943 / Cherry Point's contribution to the Korean War effort was to provide a steady stream of trained aviators and air crewmen as well as maintenance and support personnel as replacements to forward deployed aviation units / During the Vietnam War, Cherry Point deployed three A-6 Intruder squadrons to the Far East and again provided a constant source of replacements for aircrews and enlisted aviation personnel / The air station and its associated support locations occupy more than 29,000 acres / Its runway system is large enough that the air station served as an alternate emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle launches out of Cape Canaveral, Florida



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Miscellaneous:

Richard A. Swack passed away on 11 December 2020

All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron was the designator for squadrons equipped with all-weather variants of the Douglas AD Skyraider / It was discontinued with the demise of the wide-body Skyraiders from the Navy inventory, and squadrons equipped with newer all-weather attack aircraft such as Grumman A-6 Intruder received "plain" VA designators

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

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: **SWIATEK**

DANIEL A.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MAJOR

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY
 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION BLACKHORSE REGIMENT
 1ST AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 3RD ARMORED DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR	VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL	REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
NEW YORK STATE CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS	

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

Service Notes:

Major Daniel A. Swiatek honorably served in the United States Army / Major Daniel Swiatek served 9 years as an Army officer, including over 6 1/2 years active duty from 1955-1967 / Major Daniel A. Swiatek served 4 years with US Army Europe (Germany) and served in Vietnam with distinction in Vietnam, receiving the Bronze Star for valor

Major Swiatek was awarded the New York State Conspicuous Service Star by Governor George Pataki's Executive Office for his military service with distinguished military units in Vietnam, Germany and the United States

Daniel Swiatek received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 1 July 1973

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Swiatek served the Hamburg community as a 15-year member of the Frontier School Board, Town Youth Board, and helped organize many events sponsored by the Buffalo Grouse Society / Daniel Swiatek retired as a Corrections Counselor at Collins Correctional / Daniel A. Swiatek passed away on 3 December 2017



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 / The Blackhorse Regiment arrived in Vũng Tàu, South Vietnam on 7 September 1966 and participated in many campaigns against the Viet Cong / The 11th ACR serves as the opposing force (OPFOR) for the Army and Marine task forces, and foreign military forces that train at Fort Irwin

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into denied areas with a U.S. Department of Defense requirement to "respond to crisis contingencies anywhere in the world within 18 hours" / Based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / In 1968, the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne performed combat duties in the Huế – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months

The 3rd Armored Division (also known as "Spearhead", 3rd Armored, and 3AD) was an armored division of the United States Army / Unofficially nicknamed the "Third Herd," the division was first activated in 1941 and was active in the European Theater of World War II / The division was stationed in West Germany for much of the Cold War and also participated in the Persian Gulf War / On 17 January 1992, still in Germany, the division ceased operations / In October 1992, it was formally inactivated as part of a general drawing down of U.S. military forces at the end of the Cold War

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SWIECZKOWSKI**

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address: 425 EAST EDEN ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael John Swieczkowski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Michael Swieczkowski was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT John Swieczkowski was Killed In Action on 20 May 1968 from a hostile explosive device while on military operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 20 May 1968, 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, was a couple weeks into a sweep and clear mission in Quang Ngai Province, RVN / Operating understrength at about twenty-eight troopers instead of the forty or so that made up a full platoon, their daily routine consisted of patrols in and around the kaleidoscope hamlets and villes in their area of operations / Early into their day's planned quick, two-hour sweep, a huge explosion occurred when a 500lb bomb exploded / It was unclear whether it had been command-detonated or booby-trapped, but the results were devastating / Eight members of 3rd Platoon lay dead or mortally wounded and another sixteen were injured, ten of which required immediate medical evacuation / Helicopters arrived and carried the wounded to the 27th Surgical Hospital and 2nd Surgical Hospital at Chu Lai Air Base / One of 3rd Platoon's squad leaders was spared when he was sent to Chu Lai for medical reasons the day before / He was tasked with the grisly chore of identifying the dead at the Graves Registration section at 2nd Surgical Hospital, many of who were his friends / The lost personnel included SSG Joseph R. Daigneault, CPL Newton M. Gray Jr., SGT Robert J. Hartley, SGT Richard H. Junk, SGT John D. Larry, CPL Willie J. McClain Jr., SGT Michael J. Swieczkowski, and SGT Richard A. Western. CPL



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Dennis W. Lane, who survived the medivac, expired the following day

Base Assignments:

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to house a large portion of the United States' official gold reserves / It is named in honor of Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery in the American Revolutionary War and the first United States Secretary of War / A new Armored Force was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox with the 7th Cavalry Brigade becoming the 1st Armored Division / The Armored Force School and the Armored Force Replacement Center were also sited at Fort Knox in October 1940, and their successors remained there until 2010, when the Armor School moved to Fort Benning, Georgia / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the American tanks of the day; the last was the M1 Abrams main battle tank / In 2011, the U.S. Army Armor School moved to Fort Moore, Georgia, where the Infantry School is also based

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

Miscellaneous:

Michael Swieczkowski graduated from Hamburg Central Senior High School in 1966 / Michael John Swieczkowski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Michael John Swieczkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 64e, Line 9

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 11th Light Infantry Brigade was formed as part of the US Army's 6th Division during WWI. Activated November of 1917 / Its elements at that time were the 51st Infantry Regiment, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 16th Machine-Gun Battalion and the 11th Field Artillery / The 11th Light Infantry Brigade is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division, AMERICAL Division during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971 / The 11th Light Infantry in early 1967, trained extensively in jungle operations in preparation for deployment to Vietnam / The 11th LIB was deployed during the Vietnam War and served the US Army's 23rd Infantry Division, The AMERICAL Division



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) was constituted 3 June 1784 in the Regular Army as a company of the First American Regiment / Redesignated 15 April 1966 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry (organic elements concurrently constituted) / Battalion activated 1 July 1966 in Hawaii and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade / On 15 August 1967, the 11th Infantry Brigade adopted the "light Infantry" concept

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SWISHER**

LARRY R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 228 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 508TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Larry Raymond Swisher honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Larry Swisher was deployed to Vietnam on 3 June 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Larry Swisher was Killed In Action on 16 March 1969 from enemy small arms fire during military operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

SGT Larry Swisher attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia before quitting to volunteer for duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Larry Swisher was born in Elmira, New York / Larry Swisher attended Hutchinson Central Technical High School, Buffalo and attended the State University at Buffalo / Larry Raymond Swisher was 21 years old at the time of his



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Larry Raymond Swisher is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29w, Line 56

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 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into hostile areas with a U.S. Department of Defense mandate to be "on-call to fight anytime, anywhere" at "the knife's edge of technology and readiness / Primarily based at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / In April 1965, the "All-Americans" invaded the Dominican Republic / Spearheaded by the 3rd Brigade, the 82nd deployed in Operation Power Pack / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Hue – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months

The 508th Infantry Regiment (508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 508th AIR, or 508th IR) ("Red Devils" or "Fury from the Sky") is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army, first formed in October 1942 during World War II / When the 3d Brigade was sent to Vietnam in response to the Tet Offensive in early 1968, 1-508th accompanied it / There it took part of the heavy fighting of Hue and the Tet counteroffensives / It was later awarded the Presidential Unit Citation / From 8 August 1962 to 26 June 1968, the lineage of Co C, 508 PIR was reactivated as HHC, 3-508th INF, and the unit served as an airborne battalion within the 193d Infantry Brigade in Panama / When the Airborne component of the battalion was reduced to a single company (Co A), the battalion was reflagged as the 3d Battalion, 5th Infantry / In 1983 both battalions served in the Operation Urgent Fury with the invasion of Grenada

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

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

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



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

Sergeant Larry Raymond Swisher was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SYGNATUR**

FRANCIS J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Francis Jacob Sygnatur honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of Francis Sygnatur, Marine Corps Private First-Class Joseph John Sygnatur, died on 19 July 1968 when a mortar shell exploded while it was being loaded aboard a government vehicle in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis Sygnatur was a Post member and Honor Guard member of the F.J. Donovan Post #1626 / Sygnatur was a member of the Bison City Rod & Gun Club, and the Alden Rod & Gun Club / Francis Jacob "Sarge" Sygnatur passed away on 9 April 2023 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a special type of recognition for service members / The Army Commendation Medal is considered a "mid-level" military decoration / The commendation is generally awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / It's usually granted to U.S. Army personnel that are not general officers / All in all, there are Commendation Medals for each service branch (Army, Naval Service, Air and Space Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard)

The Army Achievement Medal (AAM) is the lesser of the U.S. military's meritorious service medals and was first introduced as a means to recognize the contributions of enlisted personnel and junior officers who were not



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qualified to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / Additional awards are denoted by oak leaf clusters



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SYGNATUR**

JOSEPH J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 172 FOUGERON STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H SCO

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph John Sygnatur honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Joseph Sygnatur was deployed to Vietnam as a Combat Engineer / PFC Joseph Sygnatur died on 19 July 1968 when a mortar shell exploded while it was being loaded aboard a government vehicle in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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:

Joseph Sygnatur played baseball and basketball at St. Mary Magdalene School / Sygnatur enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in July 1966 after his third year at Emerson Vocational High School / Prior to entering the military Sygnatur worked at F. Karl Bar Supplies on Genesee Street and was a member of the Police Athletic League / Joseph John Sygnatur was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalbert's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Joseph John Sygnatur is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18e, Line 51

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

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



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ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

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

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



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

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

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

The 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: SYHLOWY

DAVID J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Staff-Sergeant David J. Syhlowy honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Syhlowy was retired from the Ford Motor Company / David J. Syhlowy passed away on 9 February 2021 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SYPOSS**

ANDREW B.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

RVN CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM & FRAME

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 1 SERVICE STAR

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Andrew "Abe" B. Syposs honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Andrew Syposs was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months as a Rifleman/ Lance Corporal Syposs was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

Andrew Syposs received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 9 September 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Andrew "Abe" B. Syposs passed away on 17 February 2018 at the age of 70 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, 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.

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capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / The 1st Marine Division fought with distinction in Vietnam / The 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 Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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

The 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: **SZANYI
LAWRENCE**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Lawrence J. "Red" Szanyi honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Lawrence Szanyi was deployed to Vietnam from 1968 to 1973 / SP4 Szanyi was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence Szanyi was a member of American Legion Post #63 and Col. J.B. Weber Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #898, Lackawanna / Lawrence J. "Red" Szanyi passed away on 7 February 2000 at the age of 50 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, 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

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



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

Name: SZATKOWSKI

ROBERT J.

Hometown: LANCASTER

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 J. Szatkowski honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Szatkowski was a retiree from the United States Postal Service / Robert J. Szatkowski passed away on 8 November 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SZCZUBLEWSKI**

STANLEY

H.

Hometown: LAKE VIEW

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:

Stanley H. Szczublewski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley Szczublewski was an exempt member of the Lake View Volunteer Company / Szczublewski was a member of American Legion Post #527 / Stanley H. Szczublewski passed away on 25 March 2024 at the age of 82 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SZEFLER**

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER: (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class (E-3) Michael John Szefler honorably served in the United States Army as a Quartermaster Supply Clerk

Michael J. Szefler was inducted into the U.S. Army on 8 July 1964 and received his Honorable Discharge on 21 April 1966

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Szefler was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

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



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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 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: **SZEWCZYK**

EDWARD J.

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:

Edward J. Szewczyk honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Szewczyk retired from American Brass / Edward J. Szewczyk passed away on 25 February 2023 at the age of 75 years old and is interred in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SZMARA**

RONALD

R.

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Ronald R. Szmara honorably served in the United States Navy and was stationed in Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Szmara was a 4th-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Grain Millers/Milk Bone Retirees and the Buffalo Police Reserves / Szmara was also a member of Amvets Buddy Knaus Post #14, 74/174th Infantry NYNG Connecticut Amory and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Leonard Post VFW Post #6251 / Ronald R. Szmara passed away on 29 December 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SZYMANSKI

DAVID J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

BATTERY C, 2ND BATTALION, 44TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT, FOURTH U.S. ARMY

Medals / Citations:

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David J. Szymanski honorably served in the United States Army SP4 David Szymanski classification was as a Cook with the Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 44th Artillery Regiment, Fourth U.S. Army

David Szymanski was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 22 July 1965

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David J. Szymanski passed away on 20 July 2017

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

The 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is an Air Defense Artillery regiment of the United States Army, first



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constituted in 1918 in the Regular Army during World War I. During World War II the unit served as the 54th Coast Artillery Regiment / The 2nd Missile Battalion, 44th Artillery Regiment was the first Pershing 1 missile battalion in June 1962 under the 1st Field Artillery Missile Brigade at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

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Name: SZYMANSKI

HENRY S.

Hometown: HAMBURG

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 MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Henry S. Szymanski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Name: **SZYMANSKI**
MICHAEL

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:

Michael "Mick" Szymanski honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Upper Heyford, England

Base Assignments:

Royal Air Force Upper Heyford (RAF Upper Heyford), England - Heyford is a former Royal Air Force station located 5 miles north-west of Bicester near the village of Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, England / In the Second World War the airfield was used by RAF Bomber Command / During the Cold War, Upper Heyford was one of the former RAF bases chosen to house the United States Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) nuclear-capable bombers on 90-day TDY (Temporary Duty) deployments until 1959, SAC Reflex Alert deployments from 1959 until 1965, from 1966 United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) tactical reconnaissance aircraft, and from 1970 General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark strike aircraft / On 15 December 1993 the flight line at RAF Upper Heyford was closed and transferred to Shaw AFB, South Carolina / On 30 September 1994, the U.S. Air Force returned the airfield to the British Ministry of Defense

Miscellaneous:

Michael Szymanski was a drummer for a local band, "Alyn Syms Group (ASG) and many soul groups / Szymanski later became an Episcopal Deacon / Szymanski worked as a Social Worker and Director for the Lackawanna Youth Bureau for 18 years / Deacon Michael "Mick" Szymanski passed away on 10 November 2023