



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TABONE**

THOMAS L.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

48TH FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON (AIR DEFENSE COMMAND)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Thomas L. Tabone honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Thomas Tabone was assigned as a Jet Engine Mechanic during his 12 month tour in Vietnam

Thomas Tabone was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 27 February 1969

Base Assignments:

Langley Air Force Base, Virginia - Langley Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Hampton, Virginia, adjacent to Newport News / Langley Air Force Base, originally known as Langley Field, is named after Samuel Pierpont Langley, an aerodynamic pioneer and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution / It was one of thirty-two Air Service training camps established after the entry of the United States into World War I in April 1917 / The Air Force mission at Langley is to sustain the ability for fast global deployment and air superiority for the United States or allied armed forces / The base is one of the oldest facilities of the Air Force / On 25 May 1946 the headquarters of the newly formed Tactical Air Command were established at Langley / The command's mission was to organize, train, equip and maintain combat-ready forces capable of rapid deployment to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime air defense / The arrival of Tactical Air Command and jet aircraft marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the field, and in January 1948 Langley Field officially became Langley Air Force Base

Miscellaneous:



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Thomas L Tabone passed away 28 March 2023 at the age of 79 years old

The 48th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (FIS) constructed and maintained airfields and related facilities in France between 1917 and 1919 / It trained aviation personnel from 1927 to 1931 and from 1933 to 1936 / The 48th FIS was deployed to the European Theater of Operations (ETO) in August 1942 to fly escort missions of B-17 and B-24 heavy bombers as part of VIII Fighter Command / The squadron was sent to North Africa in late 1942 as part of the Operation Torch invasion forces, taking up station in Algeria / It was reassigned to the Twelfth Air Force and flew fighter escort missions for the B-17 Flying Fortresses operating from Algeria as well as tactical interdiction strikes on enemy targets of opportunity in Algeria and Tunisia during the North African Campaign / Following the German defeat and withdrawal from North Africa the squadron participated in the Allied invasions of Sicily and Italy and the subsequent drive of the United States Fifth Army up the Italian peninsula. It was engaged primarily in tactical operations after November 1943, supporting ground forces and attacking enemy targets of opportunity such as railroads, road convoys, bridges, strafing enemy airfields and other targets / The squadron was deployed to Corsica in 1944 to attack enemy targets in support of the Free French Forces in the liberation of the island and to support Allied forces in the invasion of southern France / The squadron continued offensive operations until the German capitulation in May 1945 / The unit was demobilized during the summer and fall 1945 in Italy and inactivated / The 48th FIS was reactivated in 1946 to the new Air Defense Command to perform air defense of the eastern United States / The 48th FIS was activated at Dow Field in November 1946 with P-47 Thunderbolts / The unit was deployed to Florida in 1962 during Cuban Missile Crisis / The 48th continued training and operational exercises until inactivation in 1991 / The 48th FIS was assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia from 1953 through 1991

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

The 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



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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 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: TAGGART IV
REGIN B.

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:

Regin B. "Bart" Taggart IV honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Regin B. "Bart" Taggart IV passed away on 18 October 2025 at the age of 85 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TAKAC, SR.**

ROBERT

C.

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:

Robert C. Takac, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert C. Takac, Sr. passed away on 25 October 2025 at the age of 86 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TALTOS**
KARL

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
 Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

COMBAT MEDIC BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

3 OVERSEAS BARS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Karl Taltos honorably served in the United States Army / Karl Taltos was deployed to Vietnam for 13 months as a Medic / Karl Taltos was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for an act of bravery

Karl Taltos received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 28 August 1971

Base Assignments:

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Fort Lewis is a United States Army base located 9.1 miles south-southwest of Tacoma, Washington / Fort Lewis was originally established in 1917 and was merged with McChord Air Force Base on 1 February 2010, to form Joint Base Lewis–McChord (JBLM) / Fort Lewis, named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 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 / The Japanese and Italian internees were transferred to Fort Missoula and the Germans to Fort Lincoln, and the temporary detention facility closed on 30 March 1943 / Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Fort Lewis) is the home of much of the 2nd Infantry Division, along with Headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and the 1st Special Forces Group / The mission of the base is to provide support to mission commanders and the joint base community, to serve as an enabler to the soldiers as they train and project America's combat power

Miscellaneous:



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Karl Taltos passed away on 10 September 2025

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

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

The 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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TANNER**

WILLIAM B.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

107TH COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant William B. Tanner honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT William Tanner was assigned as a Security Policeman during 11 months of active duty in Korea / Sgt Tanner served in the U.S. Air Force for 3 years, 10 months including active duty from 1968-1972

William Tanner received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force on 11 June 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William B. Tanner Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / William B. Tanner passed away on 16 May 2018 at the age of 73 years old

Military Air Police perform law enforcement duties on Air Force installations or operations under combat conditions / Its focus is on ensuring that Air Force values are upheld, laws are enforced and providing security for Air Force personnel and property within the Air Force training environment

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TATARSKI

LESLIE M.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Warrant Officer One Leslie Miles Tatarski honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Leslie Tatarski was deployed to Vietnam on 3 August 1969 as an Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO1 Leslie Tatarski was Killed In Action on 12 June 1970 when his helicopter crashed after receiving enemy gun fire in Binh Dinh Province, Cambodia / WO1 Leslie Tatarski was awarded the Distinguished and Air Medal, posthumously, for heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

WO1 Leslie Tatarski had been previously injured twice during his 10 months in the War Zone, once over Vietnam by ground fire and again in a helicopter crash

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leslie Tatarski graduated from Hutchinson Central Technical High School / Tatarski attended the State University of Buffalo and was enrolled in the ROTC program for two years before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968 / Leslie Miles Tatarski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Leslie Miles Tatarski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM



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Wall, Panel 09w, Line 49

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

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

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

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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



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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TAYLOR

PHILIP C.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address: 1596 BEDELL ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVN BRIGADE, 3RD SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, A TROOP

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

BRONZE STAR 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 Philip Charles Taylor honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Philip Taylor was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1970 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SGT Philip Taylor was Killed In Action on 27 May 1971 when his helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire and crashed in Cambodia

On 27 May 1971, 1LT Thomas W. Knuckey was the pilot and SGT Philip C. Taylor the observer on board an OH-58A helicopter which was part of a force conducting battle damage assessment (BDA) in Kracheh Province, Cambodia, where air strikes had been made in attempts to destroy an enemy machine gun position / The location of the gun emplacement was near the border of Cambodia and South Vietnam, about 8 miles southeast of the city of Snuol, Cambodia / During Knuckey's final pass over the gun emplacement, his aircraft was hit by enemy groundfire, and exploded while still in flight / The helicopter then crashed and exploded a second time and burned / Witnesses reported that the crew could not have survived / Because of heavy enemy activity in the area, a ground search was not possible / Knuckey and Taylor were listed as killed, bodies not recovered / The crash site was excavated in the early 1990s and on 26 February 1993 recovered human remains were repatriated / The Defense Department announced on 02 August 1993 that the remains of both men had been positively identified

Sergeant Philip Charles Taylor was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight



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Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Philip Taylor attended elementary school in Elmira and high school in Buckhannon, West Virginia / Taylor completed one year at the University of West Virginia / Taylor entered the United States Army in November 1970 / Philip Charles Taylor was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oak Hill Burial Park, Lakeland, Florida (Some records indicate that 1LT Thomas W. Knuckey and SGT Philip C. Taylor were buried together at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia)

Philip Charles Taylor is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03w, Line 56

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

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

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



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maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TAYLOR**
ROBERT

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Robert Taylor honorably served in the United States Military / Robert Taylor 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: **TAYLOR, JR.**

RAYMOND R.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CWO

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAV DIVISION, 2ND RIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY (HHC)

Medals / Citations:

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

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:

Chief Warrant Officer Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CWO Raymond Taylor was deployed to Vietnam on 18 August 1969 as an Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / CWO Raymond Taylor died on 21 February 1970 from wounds sustained when his helicopter crashed in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

On 12 February 1970, an OH-6A helicopter, tail 67-16144 crashed approximately 10 miles north of Phu Loi, Vietnam with three men in the aircraft / Warrant Officer Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr distinguished himself as the pilot of the aircraft when his ship experienced an engine failure / It crashed and began to burn immediately upon impact, resulting in serious burns to CWO Taylor and the crew / Taylor was able to free and clear himself from the aircraft but realized the other two crew members were more badly injured than himself and had not gotten out of the wreckage / He returned to the burning aircraft to rescue them / After freeing SP4 Ross Erle Hardt from the wreckage, Taylor dragged him away from the immediate area and smothered the flames, burning his own body / Again ignoring his severe injuries, CWO Taylor returned to the flaming wreckage once again in an attempt to rescue the remaining crewman, SGT Larry Herman Goschka but sustained additional burns and injuries which prohibited further rescue efforts / SGT Goschka died in the fire but CW2 Taylor and SP4 Hardt were admitted to a military medical facility, but succumbed to their wounds / Hardt died the next day and Taylor died on 21 February 1970 in the 106th General Hospital in Japan / CWO Taylor was awarded the Soldiers Medal for his distinguished effort / The Soldiers Medal is the just below a Distinguished Flying Cross but for heroism not involving conflict with an enemy



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr. was 30 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 42

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

In United States Army units, 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 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 / The Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides command, staff, administrative, supply and maintenance, communication, engineer, and medical support for the battle group

The Soldier's Medal is an individual decoration of the United States Army / It was introduced as Section 11 of the Air Corps Act, passed by the Congress of the United States on July 2, 1926 / The Army's Soldier's Medal is equivalent to the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Air Force and Space Force's Airman's Medal, and the Coast Guard Medal / Prior to the creation of the Airman's Medal in 1960, airmen were awarded the Soldier's Medal / The medal is "awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, including Reserve Component soldiers not serving in a duty status at the time of the heroic act, distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving conflict with an enemy"

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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: TERPIN

THOMAS G.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Thomas G. Terpin honorably served in the United States Army / Thomas Terpin was deployed to Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas G. Terpin passed away on 19 December 2024 at the age of 73 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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TERZIAN**

PETER J.

Hometown: HOLLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: RM

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Radioman Peter John Terzian honorably served in the United States Navy / RM Peter Terzian was assigned as a Naval Radio Operator

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter Terzian was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, moving to Buffalo later in life / Peter Terzian was employed as an automotive carrier leader in Buffalo, NY, rising to the position of Vice President of Manufacturing at Delavan Industries / Peter John Terzian passed away on 4 January 2026 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida

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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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: **THIEBOLT**

DANIEL

M.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-2

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

A CO., 1ST BATTALION, 28TH MARINE REGIMENT, 5TH MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (M-14 RIFLE)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Daniel M. Thiebolt honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Daniel Thiebolt was a Machine Gunner, serving 5 months in Vietnam / PFC Thiebolt was wounded in action on 17 March 1969 and received the Purple Heart

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps, Daniel Thiebolt joined the City of Tonawanda Police Department, serving for more than 26 years before retiring as a Lieutenant / Daniel M. Thiebolt passed away on 18 February 2018 at the age of 70 years old

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

The 28th Marine Regiment (28th Marines) is an infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The



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regiment (inactive since the Vietnam War) which is part of the 5th Marine Division, fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. Six Marines of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines were featured in the historical photo by Joe Rosenthal of the U.S. flag raising on top of Mount Suribachi / After the Battle of Iwo Jima, the 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division sailed back to Hawaii, refitted and then sailed for mainland Japan where it landed at the port of Sasebo on 22 September 1945, becoming part of the American occupation force / The 28th Marines was reactivated at Camp Pendleton on 31 January 1967 and assigned to the newly reactivated 5th Marine Division / While the division's 26th and 27th Marines served in Vietnam, the 28th Marines remained at Camp Pendleton as a reaction force and training unit for personnel bound for Vietnam / The regiment was deactivated on 26 November 1969

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

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

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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: THIELGES

CHARLES T.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY

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 Charles Theodore Thielges honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Charles Thielges was deployed to Vietnam on 23 September 1968 as a Unit Supply Specialist / SP4 Charles Thielges was Killed In Action on 4 September 1969 from wounds received during enemy mortar shelling during combat operations in South Vietnam

SP4 Charles Thielges was treated for his wounds in a Vietnamese Army Hospital and then transferred and died in the 106th Base Hospital in Kishine, Japan on 4 September 1969 from wounds suffered in combat action near Saigon, South Vietnam on 22 August 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Thielges was born in Shinglehouse, Pennsylvania / Thielges entered the United States Army in Buffalo / Charles Theodore Thielges was 27 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Wildwood Cemetery, Brockway, Pennsylvania

Charles Theodore Thielges is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18w, Line 35



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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A Unit Supply Specialist is responsible for supervising and maintaining all Army supplies and equipment / Specialists operate an automated supply system and perform functions in property accountability, supply chain management, and procurement / Unit Supply Specialists also safely secure and control weapons and ammunition in security areas

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

The 21st Infantry Regiment ("Gimlet") is a United States Army infantry regiment / The 1st Battalion currently exists as part of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division / The regiment fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom / Task Force Smith, the first American unit to see action in the Korean War, was derived from the regiment's 1st Battalion / The 3rd Battalion of the regiment was activated on 10 September 1965 at Fort Devens / It was subordinated to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade / On 26 August 1966, it was sent to South Vietnam / The brigade was attached to the 25th Infantry Division and was based at Tây Ninh / 3rd Battalion fought in Operation Attleboro between September and November 1966 / In January 1967, the battalion participated in Operation Cedar Falls / Between February and April, it participated in Operation Junction City / The 196th was then transferred to Chu Lai / On 15 July 1969, it was attached to the 23rd Infantry Division until that division's withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971 / The 3rd Battalion then formed Task Force Gimlet, patrolling the "rocket belt" around Da Nang / From 5 to 11 August 1972, Delta Company, 3/21st Infantry undertook the last patrol by U.S. troops in the war with two soldiers wounded by booby traps / The unit was relieved by South Vietnamese soldiers / The battalion was withdrawn from South Vietnam on 23 August 1972 and inactivated in Oakland on the same day

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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: THOMAS

ARTHUR J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1964

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Arthur J. Thomas honorably served in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas

Arthur Thomas was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 22 June 1964 with reserve obligation ending 17 June 1968

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Arthur J. Thomas passed away on 31 May 2019 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: THOMAS

JAMES W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 79 HAGAR STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HN

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY 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: VITENAM

Service Notes:

Hospitalman James Weldon Thomas honorably served in the United States Navy / HN James Thomas was deployed to Vietnam on 8 December 1968 as a Hospitalman / HN James Thomas was Killed In Action on 29 January 1969 when he was mortally wounded and died outright from enemy small arms fire while on patrol in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Thomas was a 1966 graduate of South Park High School / James Weldon Thomas was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

James Weldon Thomas is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 33w, Line 18

Hospitalmen (HN) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments



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ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

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

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



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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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **THOMAS**

RICHARD J.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

1ST SIGNAL CORP

US ARMY ADJUTANT CORPS

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (GRENADE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION
W/PALM

OVERSEAS SERVICE BAR (2)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (AUTOMATIC RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Richard J. Thomas honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Richard Thomas was assigned as a Clerk Typist during his 12 month deployment to Vietnam / Thomas also served as a Combat Photographer / Specialist Fifth-Class Thomas was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard J. Thomas passed away on 31 March 2023 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at St. Augustine Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

The Adjutant General's Corps is a branch of the United States Army first established in 1775 / This branch provides personnel service support by manning the force, providing human resources services, coordinating personnel support, Army band operations, and recruiting and retention / The objective of the Adjutant General Corps is to "maximize operational effectiveness of the total force by anticipating, manning, and sustaining military operations"



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The United States Army Signal Corps (USASC) is a branch of the United States Army that creates and manages communications and information systems for the command and control of combined arms forces / It was established in 1860 and had an important role in the American Civil War / Over its history, it had the initial responsibility for portfolios and new technologies that were eventually transferred to other U.S. government entities / Such responsibilities included military intelligence, weather forecasting, and aviation

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

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

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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

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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high



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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: THOMASULA

MICHAEL A.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Michael A. Thomasula honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael A. Thomasula passed away on 3 March 2019 and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: THOMPSON

RICHARD R.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Richard R. Thompson honorably served in the United States Air Force as an Egress Systems Technician

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard R. Thompson passed away on 21 August 2022

Aircrew Egress Systems technicians ensure that pilots can safely eject from aircraft in the event of an emergency / By performing precise maintenance and coordination of seats, hatches, canopies and modules, these professionals make sure that every component is in perfect working order so that Airmen can make a safe escape when necessary



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: THOMS

HAROLD

F.

Hometown: EDEN

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: W-2

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: 1983

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Chief Warrant officer Harold F. "Sonny" Thoms honorably served in the United States Navy / W-2 Harold Thoms was deployed to Vietnam / W-2 Harold Thoms retired from the Navy on 1 May 1983 after serving for 24 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Harold Thoms was born in Cherry Creek, NY and entered the Navy at the age of 19 / Thoms was a member of the American Legion Post #607 in Holland, New York and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post / Harold F. "Sonny" Thoms passed away on 30 January 2025 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **THORSTEINSON**

VERNON J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Vernon Joseph Thorsteinson honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Vernon Thorsteinson was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / CPL Vernon Thorsteinson was Killed In Action on 12 August 1967 from hostile small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Vernon Thorsteinson was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and grew up in Atikokan, Ontario, Canada / Thorsteinson was an army cadet in high school / After attending the University of Toronto, Thorsteinson dropped out and joined the U.S. Marines Corps, enlisting in Buffalo / Vernon Joseph Thorsteinson was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Little Falls Cemetery, Atikokan, Ontario, Canada / Vernon Thorsteinson is also listed on The North Wall Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Vernon Joseph Thorsteinson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 24e, Line 104

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

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

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

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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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Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **THREET**

PIERRE

A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 66 CARY STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART W/GOLD STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Pierre Anatole Threet honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Pierre Threet was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC Pierre Threet was Killed In Action on 19 September 1967 from enemy mortar rounds during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During the month of September 1967, the 2nd Battalion participated in Operations Fremont, Liberty, and Kingfisher moving on 12 September from Camp Evans in Thua Thien Province to Con Thien (Hill 158) in northern Quang Tri Province / Under the OPCODE (Operational Control) of the 9th Marines, the Battalion engaged in providing security for the Combat Outpost at Con Thien and Charlie-2 during Operation Kingfisher / On 19 September, a security patrol from Company was 800 meters east of Con Thien when the Marines were hit with a barrage of enemy mortar fire / Two men were wounded, including PFC Pierre Threet who was killed by multiple fragmentation wounds from the deadly hostile fire

In the July 1967, the 2nd Battalion was conducting combat operations in Thua Thien Province, and during one engagement with the enemy PFC Pierre Threet was wounded in the leg / Threet was treated for his injury and returned for duty to his unit

Base Assignments:



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Miscellaneous:

Pierre Threet was born in France / Pierre Threet graduated from School 82 and attended East High School before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 10 August 1966 in Buffalo / Pierre Anatole Threet was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Pierre Anatole Threet is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 94

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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



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losses were put at 435 marines killed 2,396 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 3,304 / On 6 November 1969, 2/4 was withdrawn to Okinawa as part of the United States policy of gradually turning the war over to the South Vietnamese

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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,



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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: TIBBETTS

LARRY W.

Hometown: BOSTON

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:

Larry W. Tibbetts honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Larry Tibbetts was the owner and operator of Masterbend Muffler in Buffalo, New York / Tibbetts playing the banjo and was a member of two local bands, the Sunset Bluegrass Band and the Back Creek Bluegrass band / Larry W. Tibbetts passed away on 10 August 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TIBERIO

JOHN

L.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: SM

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Seaman John L. Tiberio honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Tiberio was a Barber for over 60 years / Tiberio was a member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, Holy Name Society OLV, South Park Hall of Fame 2017 Harvard Cup recipient and the Lake Erie Italian Club / John Tiberio was a member of the American Legion Matthew Glab Post #1477 / John L. Tiberio passed away on 23 September 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: TICE

PAUL

D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 57 ROHR STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Paul Douglas Tice honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Paul Tice was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / LCPL Paul Tice was Killed In Action on 25 September 1966 during Operation Prairie, when his position on Razorback Ridge was hit by enemy mortar or rocket while fighting the enemy in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam / Due to heavy enemy fire, the remains of LCPL Paul Douglas Tice were not recovered

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Douglas Tice was 20 years old at the time of his passing and a memorial marker has been placed in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Paul Douglas Tice is buried or memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial / Paul Douglas Tice is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 18

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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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TILLOTSON**
ROBERT

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Robert Tillotson honorably served in the United States Military / Robert Tillotson 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: **TITUS**

MICHAEL J.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Michael J. Titus honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Titus worked with the F.B.I. in the Joint Terrorism Task Force and retired from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol / Michael J. Titus passed away on 15 July 2025 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TODARO**

SALVATORE L.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Salvatore L. Todaro honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Salvatore Todaro was a 38 year employee with The City of Buffalo / Salvatore L. Todaro passed away on 16 October 2015 and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TOEPFER**
RICHARD

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard Toepfer honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Toepfer passed away on 29 March 2026 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TOMAKA
EDWARD V.

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:

Edward V. Tamaka honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward V. Tamaka passed away on 9 January 2025 at the age of 73 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: TOMAKA
KARL

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:

Karl Tomaka honorably served in the United States Military / Karl Tomaka 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: TOMAKA
THADDEUS C.

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:

Thaddeus "Ted" C. Tomaka honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thaddeus "Ted" C. Tomaka passed away on 5 June 2022 at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TOMAKA, JR.

LOUIS S.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1957

Year Discharged: 1959

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL (BERLIN)

GOOD CONDUCT

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Louis S. Tomaka, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Louis Tomaka was assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman and deployed for 18 months of foreign duty

PFC Louis Tomaka, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 9 September 1959

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Louis S. Tomaka, Jr. passed away on 17 December 2020

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



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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: **TOMASI**
CARMEN

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A2C

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman Second-Class Carmen Tomasi honorably served in the United States Air Force / A2C Carmen Tomasi was assigned as a Corpsman at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, where he worked in a hospital, helping deliver babies

Base Assignments:

McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey - McGuire AFB/McGuire, the common name of the McGuire unit of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, is a United States Air Force base in Burlington County, in the U.S. state of New Jersey, approximately 16.1 miles south-southeast of Trenton / McGuire is under the jurisdiction of the Air Mobility Command / It was consolidated with two adjoining US Army and Navy facilities to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) on 1 October 2009 / The host unit at McGuire AFB is the 87th Air Base Wing (87 ABW), United States Air Force Expeditionary Center, AMC / McGuire originated in 1941 as Fort Dix Army Airfield / Closed briefly after World War II, it reopened in 1948 as McGuire Air Force Base / The base was named after Major Thomas B. McGuire Jr., Medal of Honor recipient, and the second leading ace in American history / Many hundreds of thousands of Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel have left the United States for overseas locations from McGuire AFB / Airplanes from McGuire have provided the flyovers for Philadelphia Eagles games and Major League Baseball All-Star and World Series games played in Philadelphia at the end of the National Anthem

Miscellaneous:

Carmen Tomasi was a retired Zone Administrator for the Western New York Trade Zone / Carmen Tomasi passed away on 15 October 2022 at the age of 80 years old

Hospital Corpsmen are medical professionals who provide health care to service people and their families / They serve as pharmacy technicians, medical technicians, nurse's aides, physician's or dentist's assistants, battlefield



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Town of West Seneca, New York

corpsman, and more / All work falls into several categories: first aid and minor surgery, patient transportation, patient care, prescriptions and laboratory work, food service inspections, and clerical duties / Also issued to corpsmen attached to Marine Corps units

Name: **TOMASULA**

MICHAEL

V.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Michael V. Tomasula honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael V. Tomasula passed away on 22 January 2023 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TOMASZEWSKI**

DANIEL E.

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:

Daniel E. Tomaszewski honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Tomaszewski retired from Bethlehem Steel and was a member of the United Steelworkers of America / Daniel E. Tomaszewski passed away on 28 January 2024 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TOMASZEWSKI**

THOMAS D.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: EAST WOODLAWN AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Thomas David Tomaszewski honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Thomas Tomaszewski was deployed to Vietnam on 22 August 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Thomas Tomaszewski was Killed In Action on 24 October 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat operations in Ho Bo Woods, Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Tomaszewski was a 1967 graduate of Hutchinson Central Technical High School / Tomaszewski entered the U.S. Army in March 1969 / Thomas David Tomaszewski was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalbert's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Thomas David Tomaszewski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 17w, Line 115

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



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

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

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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

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

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: TOMLINSON
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 Tomlinson honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Tomlinson 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: **TOPOLSKI**
WILLIAM

Hometown: TONAWANDA

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 Topolski honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Topolski retired from Trico and the United States Postal Service / William Topolski passed away on 19 December 2024 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TORSELL**
LONNY

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:

Lonny Torsell honorably served in the United States Military / Lonny Torsell was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TOWNSEND**

GARY R.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address: 1903 OAKWOOD DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, F COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Gary Ray Townsend honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Gary Townsend was deployed to Vietnam on 28 July 1968 as a Rifleman / LCPL Gary Townsend was Killed In Action on 30 September 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

In the month of September 1968, Company F was under the OPCON (Operational Control) of the 1st Battalion participating on Operation MAMELUKE THRUST in the Duy Xuyen District of Quang Nam Province / On 30 September, Company F and H launched an attack as part of the Battalions mission on the Cu Ban village complex / Encountering a stubborn enemy in fortified positions, Company F suffered losses of four men killed and several wounded during the battle / One of the casualties was LCPL Gary Townsend who died from hostile rifle fire / LCPL Gary Townsend served two months in Vietnam

LCPL Gary R. Townsend was presented with the Silver Star Medal, posthumously, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with as a Fire Team Leader with Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam / On 30 September 1968, during Operation MAMELUKE THRUST, elements of Company F were advancing through a densely wooded tree line near An Hoa in Quang Nam Province when the Marines came under a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire from a large North Vietnamese Army force occupying fortified emplacements / Alertly detecting a reinforced bunker that was the primary source of the enemy fire, Lance Corporal Townsend rapidly



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pinpointed the firing positions and, with complete disregard for his own safety, unhesitatingly moved through the fire-swept area until he was only ten meters in front of the position's aperture / Fearlessly exposing himself to the devastating hostile fire, he began delivering automatic weapons fire directly into the bunker, enabling the other members of his squad to move forward and attack the hostile enemy emplacement / Continuing his determined efforts, he was assisting his comrades in destroying the bunker with hand grenades when he was mortally wounded / His timely and heroic actions inspired all who observed him and were instrumental in his unit's subsequent seizure of the enemy position

At Parris Island, Gary Townsend was named the most outstanding Marine in his platoon and received the Leatherneck Magazine Blue Uniform Award

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, 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:

Gary Ray Townsend was a 1965 graduate of Orchard Park Central High School and had attended Colorado State University at Ft Collins Colorado for 2 1/2 years, majoring in sociology / Townsend enlisted in the US Marine Corps on 7 February 1968 in Buffalo / Gary Ray Townsend was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park New York

Gary Ray Townsend is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42w, Line 51

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

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at



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Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force / The 1st Marine Division is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / As its mission, the 1st Marine Division is the division 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

2nd Battalion 5th Marines (2/5 or "Two Five") is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps consisting of approximately 800 marines and sailors / They are based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and fall under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion has seen combat in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War and has deployed many times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current War on Terror / 2/5 is the most highly decorated battalion in the Marine Corps, and their motto, "Retreat, Hell!", comes from the French trenches of World War I, when a Marine officer named Lloyd W. Williams was advised by a French officer to retreat and replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" / In April 1966, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and served there until 1971 / During this time, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines participated in combat operations at Hue, Que Sơn, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Phu Loc / Immediately after their return to Camp Pendleton in 1971, the battalion joined Operation New Arrivals, the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States

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



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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

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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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Lance Corporal Gary Ray Townsend was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT

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: **TRACY**

RICHARD D.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

1ST BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (MACHINE GUN)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Richard "Dick" D. Tracy honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Richard Tracy was on active duty in Baumholder, Germany as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist / SSgt Tracy also served in the Air National Guard from 1970 through 1977 as a Squad Leader with the 152nd Construction Engineer Battalion in Buffalo, New York

Richard Tracy received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army 14 March 1970 and his Honorable Discharge from the Army National Guard on 2 February 1977

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Tracy was a member of the Patriot Guard Riders of New York and a member of the American Legion Honor Guard / Richard "Dick" D. Tracy passed away on 7 August 2017

In June 1898 the 13th Infantry Regiment was sent to Cuba and led the 1st Infantry's attack on San Juan Hill, capturing the Spanish flag / Major William Auman was the first commanding officer to reach the top of San Juan Hill / The regiment saw combat in the Philippines during the Philippine–American War, and was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division in June 1918 / As a member of this organization, the regiment did not participate in World War I / In 1939 the regiment was ordered to the Panama Canal Zone and a year later, after having been disbanded, was reconstituted at Camp Jackson, South Carolina / The regiment found itself fighting through the



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hedgerows of France in July 1944 as a member of the 8th Infantry Division and led the drive to the Aa River / The regiment spent ten months in combat in Normandy, Northern France, The Rhineland and Central Europe / It occupied a position on the Siegfried Line and was involved in the Battle for Brest and the Battle of Hurtgen Forest / In January, 1958 the 1st Battle Group, 13th Infantry Regiment moved from Neu Ulm to Sandhofen, Germany / The First Battalion was posted to Baumholder whilst the Second Battalion was posted to Mannheim, Germany and remained there until 1 August 1988 when it was inactivated and relieved from assignment to the 8th Infantry Division

The 152nd Engineer Battalion served as part of the New York Army National Guard from 1946 until 2007. At that time it had been part of the 42nd Infantry Division's Engineer Brigade of three engineer battalions

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TRAINER**

JOHN

J.

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:

John J. Trainer honorably served in the United States Army National Guard / John Trainer served during the Vietnam Era and retired after 33 years in the Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Trainer was a member of the Red Castle Club, Iris Hill Hunting Club and the Bath Rod and Gun Club / John J. Trainer passed away on 28 November 2024 at the age of 91 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRAVIS

JOHN J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

John J. Travis honorably served in the United States Air Force / After basic training, John Travis was sent to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas to train as a Sentry Dog Handler, Air Policeman / Travis was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months

John Travis was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 12 October 1966 with reserve obligations ending on 14 August 1968

Base Assignments:

Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas - Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas - Lackland Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Bexar County, Texas / The base is under the jurisdiction of the 802d Mission Support Group, Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and an enclave of the city of San Antonio / It is the only site for Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) / Lackland AFB is part of Joint Base San Antonio, an amalgamation of the Fort Sam Houston, the Randolph Air Force Base and Lackland Air Force Base, which were merged on 1 October 2010 / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Miscellaneous:

John J. Travis passed away on 20 February 2025 at the age of 81 years old

Military Air Police perform law enforcement duties on Air Force installations or operations under combat conditions / Its focus is on ensuring that Air Force values are upheld, laws are enforced and providing security for



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Air Force personnel and property within the Air Force training environment

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRAVIS, JR.

EDWARD J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

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:

Edward J. Travis, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Travis was a railroad conductor with the Erie Lackawanna Railroad, Conrail, and CSX Transportation / Travis served as the Local Chairman of the United Transportation Union Local #1393 / Edward Travis was member of the Men's Clubs at McCarthy's, Top Hill, Smokey's Tavern, and the Swan Lounge / Edward Travis was a member of the American Legion Post 880, and the Knights of Columbus / Edward J. "EJ the DJ" Travis, Jr. passed away on 4 February 2026 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TREMANE**

GARY

C.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, US ARMY, BERLIN, GERMANY

Medals / Citations:

ARMY OCCUPATION MEDAL (GERMANY)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Gary C. Tremane honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Gary Tremane was assigned as a Pay Disbursement Clerk deployed with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, US Army, Berlin, Germany for 20 months

Gary Tremane received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 6 October 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary C. Tremane passed away on 16 December 2017 at the age of 70 years old

The 6th Infantry Regiment ("Regulars") was formed 11 January 1812 / Zachary Taylor, later the twelfth President of the United States, was a commander of the unit / The motto, "Regulars, By God!" derives from the Battle of Chippawa, in which British Major General Phineas Riall noticed that the approaching regiment had on the uniforms of militia, which the British had defeated at Queenston Heights / Instead, the Americans pressed the attack / Riall is believed to have said, "Those are Regulars, By God!", though the only source of this was opposing U.S. General Winfield Scott / The regiment participated in the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War, the Indian Wars (1823-1879), the Spanish-American War, Philippine-American War (1899-1913), the Pancho Villa Expedition (1916-1917), World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War / The headquarters and headquarters company is a company sized military unit



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The Army of Occupation Medal is a military award of the United States military which was established by the United States War Department on 5 April 1946 / The medal was created in the aftermath of the Second World War to recognize those who had performed occupation service in either Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan or Korea / The first medal was presented to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had been the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force Commander during World War II / Because of the legal status of West Berlin as an occupied territory, the Army of Occupation Medal was issued for forty-five years until the unification of Germany in 1990, making it one of the longest active military awards of both the Second World War and the Cold War / To be awarded the Army of Occupation Medal, a service member was required to have performed at least thirty consecutive days of military duty within a designated geographical area of military occupation

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TREMBATH**
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 Trembath honorably served in the United States Military / James Trembath 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: TRIMPER, SR.

JAMES

P.

Hometown: GETZVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A2C

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman Second-Class James P. Trimper, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / A2C James Trimper was classified as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Trimper was the President and Owner of Denton, Cottier & Daniels, Past Vice-President of National Association of Music Merchants, Past District Deputy for the Boy Scouts of America, a Trustee at St. Pius X Church, Master of Ceremonies at St. Pius X Church, Music Director at St. Pius X, Past Grand Knight St. Pius X Knights of Columbus and Past President of the Holy Name Society at St. Pius X Church / James P. Trimper, Sr. passed on 19 November 2023 at the age of 82 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TROST

TIMOTHY J.

Hometown: COLDEN

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:

Timothy Joel Trost honorably served in the United States Navy / Timothy Trost was stationed in Bermuda with anti-submarine aviation units / Trost served with a seaplane squadron flying the Martin P5M Marlin on patrol and reconnaissance missions / Timothy Trost logged more than 900 flying hours and his duties included operating and maintaining the aircraft's radio, radar, and anti-submarine electronics

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Timothy Trost earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Canisius College in 1964 and his law degree from Boston College in 1968 / Trost was admitted to the New York Bar in 1968 and later to the South Carolina Bar in 1983 / Timothy Trost also served as a judge in Erie County Family Court, confirmed in 1990 / From 1997 to 2006, Trost served as an Administrative Law Judge for the New York State Department of Health, presiding over hearings involving professional conduct and competence / Timothy Joel Trost passed away 22 February 2026 at the age of 86 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TROTTER

RICHARD B.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 6TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

BRONZE STAR 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:

Staff Sergeant Richard Barry Trotter honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Richard Trotter was deployed to Vietnam on 20 March 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Richard Trotter was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile small arms fire while defending their position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

On 26 September 1968, less than one week from returning home, SSG Richard Trotter's Company was tasked with participating in a series of airmobile assaults on suspected enemy positions / Shortly after being inserted, SSG Trotter's Company took heavy enemy fire and SSG. Trotter was hit by enemy machine gun fire / SSG Richard Trotter died from his wounds before medics could reach him

For SSG Richard Trotter's exemplary service and many heroic actions during his service he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Barry Trotter was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Richard Barry Trotter is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42w, Line 25

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

The 31st Infantry Division, also known as the "Dixie Division," was an infantry division of the United States Army National Guard / It was active almost continuously from 1917 to 1968 / The division saw service in both World War I and World War II, and was mobilized during the Korean War, although it was not sent overseas / The division was organized in 1917 during World War I from the national guardsmen of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, and deployed to France in September 1918, arriving weeks before the Armistice of 11 November that ended the war / It was mobilized in 1940 during World War II, and spent several years training in the United States In 1944 it was sent to the South-West Pacific Area, fighting in the New Guinea campaign and in the Battle of Mindanao / After the end of the war, the division was demobilized in December 1945 / Mobilized during the Korean War, the division served stateside at Camp Atterbury and Camp Carson / The 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Inf Division served in Vietnam from 8 April 1968 until departure on 12 October 1970

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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

Staff Sergeant Richard Barry Trotter 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: TROUST

GARY

A.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1958

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gary Allan Troust honorably served in the United States Army and had tours of duty in Japan and Korea between 1956 and 1958

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Gary Troust ran his family hardware business, Troust Supply Center, Orchard Park for over 25 years / Troust was a member of the Aurora Players Community Theater in East Aurora / Troust retired to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania / Gary Allan Troust passed away on 21 September 2024 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRUDEAU, SR.

MICHAEL L.

Hometown: EAST 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:

Michael L. Trudeau, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael L. Trudeau, Sr. passed away on 11 October 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRZECKI

GERALD

A.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gerald A. Trzecki honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald A. Trzecki passed away on 22 January 2026 at the age of 81 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRZEPACZ
DONALD

Hometown: WALES

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Donald Trzepacz honorably served in the United States Air Force / Donald Trzepacz was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Trzepacz is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rademacher VFW Post #5861

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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



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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: **TWAROG**

JOHN E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal (E-3) John Edward Twarog honorably served in the United States Marine Corps LCPL John Twarog was deployed to Vietnam as a Mortarman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Edward Twarog passed away on 19 May 2006 at the age of 57 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery Lackawanna, New York

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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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 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: **TWIST**

JOHN

H.

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:

John H. Twist honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Morocco

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Twist graduated from Canisius College in 1957, completing three years of study before being accepted through an early-admission program to the University at Buffalo Dental School, earning his degree in 1961 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, John Twist started a private dental practice in Lackawanna / Twist was an active member of the Eighth District Dental Society, serving as editor of the Eighth District Bulletin and as president of the Society in 1996 / John Twist practiced dentistry in Lackawanna for 35 years and was an active alumna of Canisius College and UB School of Dental Medicine / Dr. John H. Twist, D.D.S. passed away on 14 December 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TWOREK**

GERALD J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 289 FILLMORE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Gerald John Tworek honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Gerald Tworek was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Gerald Tworek was Killed In Action on 8 February 1971 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

SGT Lonald R. Coleman, PFC Michael B. First, SSGT Gerald J. Tworek, and SP4 James S. McGough were members of 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry out of Quang Tri Combat Base / On 8 February 1971, SGT Coleman was leading a squad consisting of PFC First and SSGT Tworek which entered an NVA position concealing a communications relay station on the Laotian border / In an engagement with enemy elements, all three soldiers were fatally wounded / Enemy intelligence, records and equipment obtained at the cost of their lives saved many Americans participating in the ARVN operation, Lam Son 719

This was the second tour of Vietnam for SSG Gerald Tworek who served in 1967 as an advisor to the South Vietnamese during the Tet Offensive / SSG Gerald Tworek served in the United States Army for eighteen years

SSG Gerald Tworek was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for acts of valor in combat

Base Assignments:



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Miscellaneous:

Gerald Tworek was a graduate of Buffalo Grammer and High Schools / Gerald John Tworek was 35 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii

Gerald John Tworek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05W, Line 90

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

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

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

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a 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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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

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

Name: TWORZYDLO

THOMAS E.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

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:

Thomas E. Tworzydlo honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Tworzydlo was a member the Buffalo Softball Hall of Fame / Thomas E. Tworzydlo passed away on 7 February 2026 at the age of 86 Years old



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Name: TYCZKA, JR.

EDWARD A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: BOSSE LANE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

3RD BATTALION, 8TH MARINES

USS BOXER (LPH-4)

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant (E-5) Edward Adam Tyczka, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Edward Tyczka was classified as an Infantry Anti-Tank Assault Man / Sergeant Tyczka was deployed during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962, stationed in the Caribbean Sea onboard the aircraft carrier, the USS Boxer / Sgt Tyczka successfully completed the Marine Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) course and the Rocket Launcher Course

Base Assignments:

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Located in Jacksonville, North Carolina, construction on Camp Lejeune was begun in 1941 and named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / As a military training facility, the Camp's 14 miles of beaches make it a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments

Clarksville Base, Tennessee - Built in 1942 and operated by the U.S. Navy from 1948 through 1969, Clarksville Base was a heavily-guarded Cold War secret / The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) built more than 240 buildings and logistic structures within Fort Campbell for the sole purpose of transporting, storing and assembling the nation's fast-growing stockpile of nuclear weapons / At one time, one-third of America's nuclear weapons were stored at Clarksville / Operations at Clarksville Base ended in 1965, and control of the facility was transferred to the Army in 1969

Miscellaneous:



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Edward Tyczka was a graduate of Seneca Vocational High School prior to his service in the Marine Corps / After his Honorable Discharge, Tyczka joined the West Seneca Police Department / Tyczka retired as a Detective after 34 years on the Police Force / Edward Tyczka was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 and is an active lifetime member and an past officer of American Legion Post #735

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

The 3rd Battalion 8th Marines (3/8) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina consisting of approximately 1,100 Marines and Sailors / The battalion was deactivated 26 March 1946 following World War II and was reactivated on 15 January 1951 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and assigned to the 2nd Marine Division / During the 1960s they participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis from October to December 1962 and Operation Powerpack in the Dominican Republic in 1965

The USS Boxer (CV/CVA/CVS-21, LPH-4) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers of the United States Navy, and the fifth ship to be named for the HMS Boxer, which had been captured from the British during the War of 1812 / The Boxer was commissioned on 16 April 1945, too late to see action in World War II / The USS Boxer supported the Inchon landings and subsequent invasion of North Korea, and was among the ships that provided support during the Chinese counteroffensive against an under-prepared and spread out United Nations (UN) force / She saw three subsequent combat tours in Korea conducting close air support and strategic bombing in support of UN ground troops fighting along the 38th parallel / The Boxer was awarded eight battle stars for her service in Korea / During the 1960's, the USS Boxer operated mainly out of the Caribbean as an amphibious assault carrier / During this duty, she was on station during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis / In 1964, she undertook her first tour to the Mediterranean when she took part in Operation Steel Pike, the largest amphibious exercise in history / The USS Boxer was decommissioned on 1 December 1969 after 25 years of service, and sold for scrap on 13 March 1971

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

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

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



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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: TYRCZ

JAMES J.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 125 ALSACE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION (1ST MARDIV)

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal James J. Tyrzcz honorably served in in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL James Tyrzcz was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of James Tyrzcz, Private First-Class Walter Fredrick Tyrzcz, Jr., was Killed In Action on 14 March 1968 from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Another brother, Private First-Class John Tyrzcz, also served in Vietnam with the U.S. Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TYRCZ**
JOHN

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 125 ALSACE AVENUE

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

5TH MARINES, 1ST BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class John Tyrzcz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC John Tyrzcz was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of John Tyrzcz, Private First-Class Walter Fredrick Tyrzcz, Jr., was Killed In Action on 14 March 1968 from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Another brother, Lance Corporal First-Class James J. Tyrzcz, also served in Vietnam with the U.S. Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



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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"



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TYRCZ, JR.**

WALTER

F.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 125 ALSACE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, A 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 Walter Fredrick Tyrcz, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Walter Tyrcz was deployed to Vietnam 8 January 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Walter Tyrcz was Killed In Action on 14 March 1968 from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Two of Walter Tyrcz brothers, John Tyrcz and James J. Tyrcz also served in 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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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:

Walter Tyrzcz attended South Park High School and worked for National Aniline, Allied Chemical Corp before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps on 19 July 1967 / Walter Fredrick Tyrzcz, Jr. was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Walter Fredrick Tyrzcz, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44e, Line 54

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

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

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

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



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case posthumously

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against



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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