



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WACKOWSKI**

JOHN J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

B BATTERY, 2ND HOWITZER BATTALION, 31ST ARTILLERY, 4TH US ARMY

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John J. Wackowski honorably served in the United States Army / John Wachowski served stateside for 24 months at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

John J. Wackowski received his Honorable Discharge on 16 May 1962

Base Assignments:

Fort Sill, Oklahoma - Fort Sill is a United States Army post north of Lawton, Oklahoma, about 85 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. It covers almost 94,000 acres / The fort was first built in 1869 during the Indian Wars and was home to the 7th Cavalry, the 19th Kansas Volunteers and the 10th Cavalry, a distinguished group of black "buffalo soldiers" / It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and serves as home of the United States Army Field Artillery School, as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / Ft. Sill has played a significant role in every major American conflict since 1869

Miscellaneous:

John Wackowski enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 26 years old / John J. Wackowski passed away on 15 June 2025 at the age of 90 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade is an air defense artillery brigade of the United States Army based at Fort Sill, Oklahoma / The 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade was constituted on 1 January 1918, during World War I / The brigade earned four battle streamers for participation in the campaigns Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, and Champagne 1918 / During World War II, the 31st deployed to the European Theater where it participated in and earned three more battle streamers for campaigns in Rome-Arno, Southern France, and the Rhineland / This unit would encounter numerous activations and inactivation over the years to come to include a 1946 inactivation in Germany, reactivation in 1948 at Fort Bliss, Tex. and in 1958 was reorganized as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Artillery Brigade / The headquarters was inactivated in 1960 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. and then reactivated on 15 December 1961 at Lockport Air Force Station, N.Y., as the 31st Artillery Brigade / In February, 1996, the brigade was moved to Fort Bliss, Texas and then to Fort Sill, Oklahoma in July 2009

Fourth Army, was constituted in the Regular Army on 9 August 1932 and allotted to the Seventh Corps Area / The headquarters was organized on 15 August 1932 at Omaha, Nebraska / Fourth Army remained in the continental United States during World War II, largely responsible for the defense of the West Coast and training tactical units to operate efficiently in combat / During the 1960s, Fourth Army operated "Tigerland", an infantry training school at Louisiana's Fort Polk that prepared recruits for infantry combat in Vietnam / In July 1971, Fourth Army was consolidated with Fifth United States Army at Fort Sam Houston / Between 1984 and 1991, Fourth Army was based at Fort Sheridan, Illinois until the Fourth Army was inactivated in 1991



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WADSWORTH**
GARY

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gary Wadsworth honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Wadsworth was a graduate of LaSalle High School / Gary Wadsworth was a retiree from DuPont in Niagara Falls where he worked for 35 years / Gary Wadsworth passed away on 20 June 2015 at the age of 77 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WAGNER**

DANIEL

A.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVA-67)

Medals / Citations:

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Daniel A. Wagner honorably served in the United States Navy Daniel Wagner was assigned as a Machinist Mate and served 15 months of foreign/sea service on the USS John F. Kennedy (CVA-67), a Ford Class Aircraft Carrier

Daniel Wagner received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy on 1 December 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Wagner worked for IOUE Local 17, Operating Engineers, as a Crane Operator in Buffalo, New York, retiring after 40 years / Wagner was a member of Randolph American Legion Post #181 and the Road Vultures Motorcycle Club / Daniel A. Wagner passed away on 31 July 2025 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Machinist's Mate (Surface) (MM) Machinist's Mates operate and maintain steam turbines and reduction gears used for ship propulsion and auxiliary machinery such as turbogenerators, pumps and oil purifiers / They also maintain auxiliary machinery outside of main machinery spaces, such as electrohydraulic steering engines and elevators, refrigeration plants, air conditioning systems and desalinization plants / They may also operate and maintain compressed gas producing plants / The duties performed by MMs include: aligning piping systems for oil, water, air and steam, and controlling the operation of ship boilers and steam turbines used for ship propulsion and service systems; controlling operation of turbogenerators used to produce electrical power; leaning, adjusting, testing and performing other preventive maintenance on a ship's boilers, main engines, turbogenerators and other auxiliary machinery including steering engines, elevators, winches, pumps and



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associated valves; operating and maintaining desalinization plants (distilling plants) to make fresh water from sea water; maintaining refrigeration plants, air conditioning systems and galley equipment; repairing or replacing valves, pumps, heat exchangers, compressors, steam turbines and hydraulic or pneumatic control devices; making entries in and analyzing machinery operating records and reports / Machinist's mates work within the hull of a ship in fire rooms, boiler rooms, engine rooms or shops

USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) (formerly CVA-67), is an aircraft carrier, and considered a supercarrier / She is the last conventionally powered carrier built for the Navy / The Kennedy was commissioned on 7 September 1968 / The USS Kennedy was named after John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States / The Kennedy was originally designated a CVA, for fixed wing attack carrier, however the designation was changed to CV, for fleet carrier / John F. Kennedy's maiden voyage, and several of her subsequent voyages, were on deployments to the Mediterranean during much of the 1970s to help deal with the steadily deteriorating situation in the Middle East / During the 1970s John F. Kennedy was upgraded to handle the F-14 Tomcat and the S-3 Viking aircraft / On 20 June 1975, the John F. Kennedy was the target of possible arson, suffering eight fires, with no injuries, while at port in Norfolk, Virginia / In August 1980, the John F. Kennedy left Norfolk, Virginia and voyaged to the Mediterranean Sea / In January 1982, the John F. Kennedy, with Carrier Air Wing Three (AC), sailed as the flagship for Carrier Group Four (CCG-4) from Norfolk, Va. on her first visit to the Indian Ocean after port visits to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Malaga, Spain, and transiting the Suez Canal / In October 1983 John F. Kennedy was diverted to Beirut, Lebanon from her planned Indian Ocean deployment, after the Beirut barracks bombing killed 241 U.S. military personnel taking part in the Multinational Force in Lebanon, and spent the rest of that year and early 1984 patrolling the region / On 4 December 1983 ten A-6 aircraft from John F. Kennedy along with A-6 and A-7 aircraft from USS Independence took part in a bombing raid over Beirut, in response to two U.S. F-14 aircraft being fired upon the previous day / In August 1988 John F. Kennedy departed on her twelfth overseas deployment / During this deployment, a pair of MiG-23 Flogger fighter aircraft from Libya approached the carrier task force, which was 81 miles off the shore of Libya near the declared Libyan territorial waters of the Gulf of Sidra / John F. Kennedy launched two F-14 Tomcats from VF-32 "Fighting Swordsmen" to intercept the incoming MiGs / The U.S. planes were sent to escort the MiGs away from the task force but during the course of the intercept, the MiGs were determined to be hostile and were both shot down / During the 11 September attacks of 2001 unfolded, John F. Kennedy and her battle group were ordered to support Operation Noble Eagle, establishing air security along the mid-Atlantic seaboard, including Washington, D.C. / The John F. Kennedy was decommissioned on 23 March 2007 and on 6 October 2021, the John F. Kennedy was sold for one-cent to International Shipbreaking Limited

The Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon is awarded to Navy and Marine Corps units that distinguish themselves through feats of valor in combat or exceptional service in non-combat circumstances / It is given for outstanding heroism in combat against a hostile foreign force or for extremely meritorious service / The award is comparable to the Bronze Star for individual actions / It is distinct from the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and is awarded by SECNAV, CNO, or CMC

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WAGNER**
DAVID A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

592ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 24TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David A. Wagner honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Wagner was assigned as a Heavy Vehicle Driver during his 12-month deployment to South Vietnam, attached to the 592nd Transportation Company, 24th Transportation Battalion

Specialist Fourth-Class David Wagner received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 10 September 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David A. Wagner passed away on 30 July 2023

The 24th Transportation Battalion was originally constituted on 1 May 1936 as Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 24th Quartermaster Regiment / Effective 1 August 1946 the Quartermaster Corps transferred the functions and responsibilities of truck and aviation units to the Transportation Corps / On 1 August 1946, while still on inactive status, the 24th Battalion was converted and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 24th Transportation Corps Truck Battalion / The 592nd Transportation Company was deployed to Vung Ro Bay on 20 May 1968 / Its mission was to supervise the terminal service and light truck units engaged in the discharge of deep draft vessels, discharging and loading of shallow draft vessels engaged in inter-coastal shipping and port and beach clearance at Vung Ro Bay



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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WAGNER**

JAMES

G.

Hometown: ELMA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

299TH ENGINEERING BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

James G. Wagner honorably served in the United States Army / James Wagner was deployed to Dak To, in the Central Highlands, Vietnam / James Wagner was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Wagner worked for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) for many years / James G. Wagner passed away on 16 January 2024 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Elma, New York

The 299th Engineer Combat Battalion was constituted in the Army of the United States on 8 February 1943 / The 299th Battalion served in Vietnam from 1965 to 1971, when it returned to Fort Lewis, Washington / The 299th participated in combat operations in Ky Son, Bin Dinh, Cheo Reo, Pleiku, Duc Co, Kontum, Tan Jhan, Phu Tal, Ben Me Thout, and Phan Thiet

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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Name: **WAILAND**
FRANK J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL	VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL WITH '60 DEVICE
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL	2 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS
MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)	MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-16 RIFLE)
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL	

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

Service Notes:

Frank J. Wailand honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - The base was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for Union Civil War general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s in recognition of the Belvoir plantation that once occupied the site, but the adjacent United States Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys Engineer Center retains part of the original name / Fort Belvoir was initially the home of the Army Engineer School prior to its relocation in the 1980s to Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri / Fort Belvoir serves as the headquarters for the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Acquisition University, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Defense Technical Information Center, the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, the United States Army Military Intelligence Readiness Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, all agencies of the United States Department of Defense

Lai Khe, Vietnam - Also known as Lai Khê Base, Lai Khe was a former Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and U.S. Army base, located along Highway 13 to the northwest of Saigon and north of Thủ Dầu Một in southern Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Nellingen Kaserne, Germany - Nellingen Kaserne was a U.S. Army airfield and barracks near Stuttgart in the town of Ostfildern, Germany / The site was selected in the 1930s as the site for a new airport for Stuttgart but was instead developed as a military airfield named Fliegerhorst Nellingen in 1938 / Following World War II the U.S. used Nellingen to host various units until after the Cold War and Gulf War / Nellingen Kaserne was closed as part of the US Forces drawdown after German Reunification and the Gulf War / In 1992 the installation was closed and the property was returned to the German government, which partially razed and redeveloped the site

Miscellaneous:

Frank Wailand was a graduate of Erie Community College (ECC) and the University of Arizona Architectural School located in Tuscon, Arizona

The 1st Infantry Division is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War I / It was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965 the division had participated in three major operations: Hump, Bushmaster 1 and Bushmaster II, under the command of MG Jonathan O. Seaman / In 1966, the division took part in Operation Marauder, Operation Crimp II, and Operation Rolling Stone, all in the early part of the year / In 1967 the division fought in Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, and Operation Shenandoah II / During the 1968 Tet Offensive, the 1st Infantry Division secured the massive Tan Son Nhut Air Base / In the first half of 1969, The Big Red One conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional operation, Atlas Wedge / In January 1970, the 1st Infantry was reassigned and returned to Fort Riley, Kansas / 11 members of the division were awarded the Medal of Honor / During its involvement in the Vietnam war, the division lost 6,146 killed in action, with a further 16,019 wounded / Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners-of-war

The 1st Engineer Battalion's history can be traced back to 15 May 1846 when a company of miners, sappers, and pontoniers was formed at West Point, New York / On 2 May 1965 the battalion, under the command of Lt. Colonel Howard L. Sargent, Jr., deployed to South Vietnam as part of the 1st Infantry Division / For five years the battalion cleared obstacles, built roads, airfields, basecamps and bridges in support of numerous combat operations including Junction City I and II and the Tet Offensive of 1968 / The battalion's DieHard Tunnel Rat section cleared the extensive Vietcong tunnel systems with little more than small arms and demolitions / The battalion received four Meritorious Unit Commendations for actions during the Vietnam War

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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: **WAKELAM**
DENIS

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

507TH TRANSPORTATION CORPS

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Denis Wakelam honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Denis Wakelam was deployed to Vietnam for 12 Months as an Aircraft Power Train Repairman while attached to the 507th Transportation Corps

SP5 Denis Wakelam was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 23 June 1971

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Denis Wakelam passed away on 14 July 2018 at the age of 69 years old

The 507th was constituted 23 February 1943 in the Army of the United States as Company A, 507th Port Battalion, Transportation Corps and activated 26 April 1943 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts

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

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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: **WALCZAK, SR.**

JAMES R,

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James R. Walczak, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Walczak was a member of Hamburg American Legion Post #527 / James R. Walczak, Sr. passed away on 29 March 2026 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALDHAUSER**

MARK

G.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: COAST GUARD

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Mark G. Waldhauser honorably served in the United States Coast Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Mark Waldhauser was a 1966 graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / Mark G. Waldhauser passed away on 2 June 2013 at the age of 64 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALEK**

EUGENE J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Eugene J. Walek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Eugene Walek was employed as a line worker for General Motors in Buffalo / Walek was a member of the Big Timers Club / Eugene J. Walek passed away on 15 February at the age of 80 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALIGORA**

ROBERT J.

Hometown: COLDEN

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert J. Waligora honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Waligora organized the St. Mary's Car Show for 20 years and helped with the Colden Fire Company car show for 3 years / Robert Waligora was employed for over 60 years, including former employers AMOCO Town for 36 years, CID, and Trophy Point / Robert J. Waligora passed away on 8 April 2025 at the age of 86 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALKOWIAK**

JAMES L.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James L. Walkowiak honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James L. Walkowiak passed away on 3 July 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALLENBECK**

FRANK

C.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 51 WOEPEL STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

MACV, ENGINEER ADVISORY TEAM 98

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Frank C. Wallenbeck honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Frank Wallenbeck was deployed to Vietnam 2 January 1969 as an Engineer Construction Unit Commander / CPT Frank Wallenbeck died on 23 July 1969 from a non-combat illness in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Frank Wallenbeck worked his way through the enlisted ranks to Sergeant First-Class and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1961

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Wallenbeck graduated from West Virginia University / Frank C. Wallenbeck was 40 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at New Tacoma Cemetery, Tacoma, Washington

Frank C. Wallenbeck is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 20w, Line 36

Engineer Construction Unit Commander are trained, certified, and deployed to combat and general engineer units to support large-scale combat operations worldwide / They provide mission command for theater-tailored engineer forces, ensuring mobility, protection, and infrastructure development / Unit Commanders oversee construction projects, including building infrastructure, roads, bridges, and other facilities



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALLS III**
WALTER S.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MAJOR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Medals / Citations:

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Walter Scott Walls III, honorably served in the United States Army / Walter Walls was attached to the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal in 1972

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter Walls III graduated from the Park School in 1956 and then attended Cornell University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1961 / Shortly after, Walls attended the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, where he pursued a residency and fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynecology / Walls joined the Hamburg OB-GYN in Hamburg, New York as a Board Certified Physician of Obstetrics and Gynecology (FACOG) / Over his 25 year career, Walls affiliated with South Buffalo Mercy Hospital, Children's Hospital of Buffalo and Buffalo General Hospital / Walls also volunteered at the Buffalo Zoo as a Docent / Walter Walls retired to Bainbridge Island, Washington / Walter Scott Walls III, MD battled against Parkinson's Disease before passing away on 29 January 2023 at the age of 84 years old

The Medical Corps (MC) of the U.S. Army is a staff corps (non-combat specialty branch) of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) consisting of commissioned medical officers – physicians with either an M.D. or a D.O. degree, at least one year of post-graduate clinical training, and a state medical license / The MC traces its earliest origins to the first physicians recruited by the Medical Department of the Army, created by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 / The US Congress made official the designation "Medical Corps" in 1908, although the term had long been in use informally among the Medical Department's regular physicians



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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

Name: **WALSH**

MAURICE

F.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Captain Maurice F. "Maury" Walsh honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Maurice Walsh was a heavy construction equipment salesman for 50 years / Maurice F. "Maury" Walsh passed away on 24 January 2017 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at hitehaven Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



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Name: **WALSH**

THOMAS J.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address: 1969

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY (HHC), 34TH ENGINEER GROUP
CONSTRUCTION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION HONOR AWARD

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (SP-4) Thomas Joseph Walsh honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Thomas Walsh was assigned as a Radio Operator and stationed in Vietnam for 13 months from 16 January 1970 through 16 February 1971 / Corporal Walsh was a Radio Operator assigned to Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 34th Engineer Group (Construction), 20th Engineer Brigade at Bin Thuy, South Vietnam

Corporal Thomas Walsh was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 17 February 1971

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Walsh was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 / Thomas J. Walsh passed away on 6 August 2023

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



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communicators

Headquarters and Headquarters company is responsible for the health, morale, welfare, training, discipline, conduct and combat readiness of Soldiers assigned to HQ CASCOM, and their Families / The 34th Engineer Group was deployed to Bien Hoa and Saigon, Vietnam in 1967 / The 34th Engineer Group were re-deployed to Phu Loi in 1968 and finally re-deploying from Vinh Long in 1971

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Name: **WALTER**
JOHN **A**

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CALVARY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), 1ST/21ST FIELD ARTILLERY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR W/OAK LEAF CLUSTER

AIR MEDAL W/4 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant John "Jack" Anthony Walter honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT John Walter was assigned with the Field Artillery as a forward observer and artillery specialist in Vietnam / Lt. John Walter earned the Silver Star for gallantry and action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile enemy force in the Republic of Vietnam / Lt. Walter, serving as an artillery liaison, repeatedly came under heavy enemy fire as he diverted devastating aerial and artillery on enemy positions with complete disregard for his own safety

First Lieutenant Walter was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster when his platoon encountered small arms and automatic weapons fire from an enemy bunker complex / Lt. Walter called for artillery and air strikes and his pinpoint accuracy forced the enemy to flee back to their fortified positions

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Walter was born in Buffalo and attended St. Matthew's School / Walter graduated from Canisius High School in 1964 and attended Gannon University (Erie, Pennsylvania), where he was enrolled in the ROTC and was a platoon member in 1967 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, John Walter went to work for the Sierra Research Corp in 1972 as a Staff Accountant, becoming Comptroller in 1982 / In 1989, Walter took the post as Comptroller for the Calspan Advanced Technology Center in 1989 and was Vice President in charge of the Accounting Department until his retirement / Walter was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign



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Wars, Amherst Township VFW Post #416 / John "Jack" Anthony Walter passed away on 21 July 2023 due to the effects of Agent Orange

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

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

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

An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem / It is authorized by the United States Armed Forces for a specific set of decorations and awards of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, and Department of the Air Force / The bronze oak leaf cluster represents one additional award, while the silver oak leaf cluster is worn in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALTERS**

RONALD

D.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ronald D. Walters honorably served in the United States Military

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald D. Walters passed away on 14 march 2026 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WANGELIN**

NORMAN

L.

Hometown: HOLLAND

Address: PARTRIDGE ROAD

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:

Norman L. Wangelin honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Norman L. Wangelin passed away on 11 March 2025 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WAPPMAN**

RAYMOND E.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Raymond E. Wappman honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Wappman worked as a Civil Engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for over 30 years / Wappman moved to Forestville, New York / Raymond E. Wappman passed away on 26 January 2024 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Ss. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WARD**

JAMES

E.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

James S. Ward honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Ward was a Supervisor with the United States Postal Service / Ward was a Volunteer Fireman for 54 years / James S. Ward passed away on 4 May 2025 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WARD**

JOHN

L.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address: 297 FAIRFIELD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, 31ST ENGINEER BATTALION, 79TH ENGINEER GROUP, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant John Lawrence Ward honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT John Ward was deployed to Vietnam on 31 January 1970 as a Combat Engineer / SSGT John Ward died on 27 April 1970 from a non-hostile accidental explosion in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam

SSGT John Ward served as a Drill Instructor, 2nd Platoon in Ft. Bliss / Ward was also stationed in Germany / This was the second tour of Vietnam for SSG John Ward

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



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Miscellaneous:

John Ward was a graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / John Lawrence Ward was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, Texas

John Lawrence Ward is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11w, Line 62

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

The 20th Engineer Brigade is a combat engineer brigade assigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps of the United States Army stationed at Fort Liberty / Although the brigade was identified as an airborne unit, not all of its subordinate units were airborne qualified, despite the airborne tab as part of the unit patch / Soldiers of the 20th Engineer Brigade provide various supportive duties to other Army units, including construction, engineering, and mechanical work on other Army projects / In response to the buildup of U.S. forces in South Vietnam, the brigade headquarters was reactivated 1 May 1967, at Fort Liberty and deployed to Vietnam in August 1967 / During the Vietnam War, the brigade numbered over 13,000 officers and enlisted men organized into three engineer groups, with 14 battalions and 31 separate companies and detachments / One of these soldiers, Al Gore, would later become Vice President of the United States / The brigade provided all non-divisional engineer support in Military Regions III and IV during eleven campaigns / Units cleared more than one-half million acres of jungle, paved 500 kilometers of highway, and constructed bridges totaling more than six miles in length / As American forces were withdrawing from Vietnam, the brigade was inactivated 20 September 1971

The 31st Engineer Battalion, known during World War II as the 31st Engineer Combat Battalion, is a combat Engineer Battalion in the U.S. Army / The 31st Engineer Battalion of the United States Army was originally constituted as the 31st Engineer Company on 1 July 1940 and activated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia / The 31st was activated on 17 June 1963 at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas / The battalion departed Fort Bliss, Texas for overseas service and arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 5 May 1968, and was directed to Xuan Loc to back up and construct the Black Horse Base Camp for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment / The battalion was responsible for III CTZ airmobile equipment support and construction support under the 159th and 79th Engineer Groups just north of Saigon / The unit moved to Phuoc Vinh on 20 October 1968 and to Long Binh in mid-1971 where it remained until it departed Vietnam for return to the United States / After nearly four years of service in Vietnam, the battalion returned to Fort Lewis, Washington, and was inactivated there on 12 March 1972

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

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WARD**

ROBERT J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: 1962

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert J. Ward honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WARNER**

GARY

L.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1958

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Gary L. Warner honorably served in the United States Army

SP4 Gary Warner was Honorably Discharged from active duty in the U.S. Army and served 4 years in the Army reserved

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Warner graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School, earning First Team All-League and All-NFL honors in Basketball / Warner became a member of the Eldredge Bicycle Club in 1961 / Gary Warner graduated from Medaille College with honor distinctions / Warner had a 36 year career in Sales Management with Buffalo Hotel Supply, being named Sales/Marketing Person of the Year in 1983 / Gary Warner retired in 2009 / Gary L. Warner passed away on 12 March 2025 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WARREN**

GERALD A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gerald A. "Jerry" Warren honorably served in the United States Navy / Gerald Warren served as a weatherman and plank owner on the Navy aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk

Gerald Warren continued with 32 years of military service as both active duty & reserve in the United States Air Force at the Niagara Falls Air Base / Gerald Warren retired from military duty in 2001 as the Law Office Manager JAG, and with the highest civilian rank of Master Sergeant

Gerald Warren was founder of the Ship's store and Treasurer of the Kitty Hawk Veterans Association

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Warren graduated from Orchard Park High School in 1959 / In 1965, Gerald Warren began a 26 year career in law enforcement as a New York State Trooper and instructor at the State Police Academy / Warren received a degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Buffalo / Gerald A. "Jerry" Warren passed away on 2 February 2026 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

A "plank owner" is an individual who was a member of the crew of a ship when that ship was placed in commission. Originally, this term applied only to crewmembers present at the ship's first commissioning, now it is often applied to members of a recommissioning crew as well / "Plank owner" is not an official Navy term, and has consequently been variously defined by different Navy units

USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), formerly CVA-63, was a United States Navy supercarrier. She was the second naval ship named after Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the site of the Wright brothers' first powered airplane flight. Kitty Hawk



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was the first of the three Kitty Hawk-class aircraft carriers to be commissioned and the last to be decommissioned / She was commissioned on 29 April 1961 and for ten years, Kitty Hawk was the forward-deployed carrier at Yokosuka Naval Base in Yokosuka, Japan / The Kitty Hawk was deployed to serve in the waters of Southeast Asia on 4 November 1966 / She remained in the Far East, supporting the U.S. in Southeast Asia until departing Subic Bay on 28 May 1968 / Kitty Hawk was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for exceptionally meritorious and heroic service from 23 December 1967 to 1 June 1968, which included the Tet Offensive, while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia, and the Navy Unit Meritorious Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service from 15 January 1969 to 27 August 1969 while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia and contingency operations in Northeast Asia. Both awards noted that the officers and men of the Kitty Hawk displayed undaunted spirit, courage, professionalism, and dedication to maintain their ship as a fighting unit under the most arduous operating conditions to enable her pilots to destroy vital military targets in North Vietnam despite intense opposition and extremely adverse weather conditions / The USS Kitty Hawk was decommissioned on 12 May 2009 and CV-63 on 29 April 1973 / The Kitty Hawk was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 20 October 2017, and was designated for disposal by dismantling after being towed and arriving in Brownsville, Texas on 31 May 2022

The U.S. Air Force Reserve (AFRC) is a federal reserve component of the United States Air Force / It has approximately 450 aircraft assigned for which it has sole control, as well as access to several hundred additional active-duty USAF aircraft via AFRC "Associate" wings that are collocated with active-duty Air Force wings / The AFRC is actively involved in operations around the world and contributes to the Air Force mission



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WASHINGTON

CHARLES E.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: 1974

Unit / Squadron:

USS HAWKINS (DD-873)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Seaman Charles Edward Washington honorably served in the United States Navy / SN Charles Washington was assigned as a Machinist aboard the USS Hawkins / During Seaman Washington's deployment, the USS Hawkins supported the Apollo Space Missions and operated the Standing Naval Force Atlantic in Northern Europe waters

Seaman Charles Washington was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 26 April 1974

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Edward Washington passed away on 8 May 2017

USS Hawkins (DD-873) was a Gearing-class destroyer in the United States Navy / Hawkins, originally to be named Beatty, but renamed on 22 June 1944 and was commissioned on 10 February 1945 / Following World War II, the ship saw service in the Korean War / During her four months of Korean duty, Hawkins screened the mobile aircraft carrier forces during strikes on enemy positions and supply lines, provided antisubmarine protection, and controlled jet aircraft in combat air patrols / In 1961 she operated with a special Task Group in connection with American space experiments and missile tests off Cape Canaveral, Florida / When the introduction of offensive missiles into Cuba in 1962 threatened the security of the United States, Hawkins joined with other ships in quarantining that Caribbean country, cruising the Caribbean from late October until December / Hawkins took part in the United States space project in November 1969 when it was assigned to the Apollo 12 Atlantic Recovery Force / The ship was fitted with special capsule recovery gear and practiced along with a Navy Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) to be prepared to recover the space capsule in the Atlantic if the Pacific



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landing was aborted / On 9 February 1971, Hawkins again participated in the space program as a backup recovery ship in the Atlantic for Apollo 14 / The USS Hawkins was decommissioned on 16 October 1998 The ship was stricken from the Navy List on 1 October 1979 and sold to the Taiwan in 1983 / The ship was scrapped in the late 1990s

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WASHINGTON

JOHN M.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

John Michael Washington honorably served in the United States Army / John Washington was deployed to Vietnam for 1 year and 10 months, including a tour of duty as Infantry Operations Specialist with the 1st Infantry Division / John Washington was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star Medal for gallantry in action against opposing armed forces / Washington also was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Washington was employed by Goodyear as a skilled mechanic / In 1987, Washington founded Ivy Lea Construction, a home improvement company that services all of Western New York / John Michael Washington passed away on 4 September 2024 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division



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

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

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WASIELA, SR.

JAMES E.

Hometown: ANGOLA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: RM3

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

USS OKINAWA (LPH-3)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Radioman 3rd Class James E. Wasiela, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy / RM3 James Wasiela was stationed onboard the USS Okinawa for 3 years and 8 months / During the deployment of RM3 Wasiela, the USS Okinawa was stationed off Vietnam as a mobile base from which the Marine Corps forces could quickly strike via helicopters at the Communist insurgents

RM3 James Wasiela was Honorably Discharged from the United States navy on 5 march 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James E. Wasiela, Sr. passed away on 16 June 2017 at the age of 70 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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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USS Okinawa (LPH-3) was the second Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship of the United States Navy / She was the second Navy ship assigned the name "Okinawa", in honor of the World War II Battle of Okinawa / She was commissioned on 14 April 1962 and departed Philadelphia on 20 June 1962 for her homeport, Norfolk, Virginia / In April 1965, while participating in an exercise off Puerto Rico, Okinawa was alerted and sent to an area off the Dominican Republic to act as medical evacuation ship with HMM-263 (Reinf) and the 1st Bn., 2d Marines during the Dominican crisis / The mission concluded on 29 May 1965 / Okinawa left on 10 March 1967 for her first deployment off Vietnam / On 13 April, while sailing from Okinawa to Taiwan, the ship was diverted by a distress call, and the next day rescued all 38 persons from the grounded Panamanian vessel Silver Peak near the Sento Shosho Islands / While off Vietnam, Okinawa was a mobile base from which a well-equipped force of marines could quickly strike via helicopters at the Communist insurgents / She returned to San Diego on 5 December 1967 / On 4 April 1968, after an intensive period of special training, Okinawa recovered the unmanned Apollo 6 space capsule 380 miles north of Kauai, Hawaii / In 1970 Okinawa was awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for her humanitarian assistance to the people of Lagonoy Gulf, Republic of the Philippines, who had been devastated by Typhoon Jean in October 1970 / On 7 August 1971, Okinawa was the recovery ship for the Apollo 15 spacecraft and crew of the fourth crewed Apollo program lunar landing mission / In April 1975, Okinawa participated in Operation Eagle Pull, the evacuation of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, Vietnam / From 7 October 1987 to 7 April 1988, Okinawa was deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of mine sweeping operations / Okinawa was the command ship of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in August 1990 as part of a WestPac deployment when it was diverted to the Persian Gulf in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm / Helicopters were launched as a diversion during the start of the ground phase of the war / The Okinawa was decommissioned on 17 December 1992 and was sunk as a target in a COMSUBPAC ship sinking exercise (SINKEX) on 6 June 2002, off the coast of Southern California

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

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

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



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Name: **WASMUND**
ROY C.

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:

Roy C. Wasmund honorably served in the United States Military / Roy Wasmund was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Roy C. Wasmund passed away on 20 June 1988 at the age of 38 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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

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



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

Name: **WATERS**
WILLIAM J.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

William J. Waters honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

brian lange porterville



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Name: **WATKINS**

GEORGE P.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1960

Unit / Squadron:

VMT-1, 2ND MARINE AIR WING, MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal George P. Watkins honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL George Watkins was assigned as a Jet Aircraft Mechanic with the 2nd Marine Air Wing

Corporal George Watkins was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marines on 4 November 1960

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, North Carolina - MCAS Cherry Point is a United States Marine Corps airfield located in Havelock, North Carolina, in the eastern part of the state / Cherry Point was built in 1941, and was commissioned in 1942 and is currently home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing / Cherry Point's primary World War II mission was to train units and individual Marines for service to the Pacific theater / The air station also served as a base for anti-submarine operations, with an Army Air Corps (22d Antisubmarine Squadron) and later a Navy squadron each being responsible for the sinking of a German U-boat just off the North Carolina coast during 1943 / Cherry Point's contribution to the Korean War effort was to provide a steady stream of trained aviators and air crewmen as well as maintenance and support personnel as replacements to forward deployed aviation units / During the Vietnam War, Cherry Point deployed three A-6 Intruder squadrons to the Far East and again provided a constant source of replacements for aircrews and enlisted aviation personnel / The air station and its associated support locations occupy more than 29,000 acres / Its runway system is large enough that the air station served as an alternate emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle launches out of Cape Canaveral, Florida

Miscellaneous:

George P. Watkins passed away on 8 January 2018 at the age of 79 years old



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The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (2nd MAW) is the major east coast aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps and is headquartered in Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina / The Wing provides the aviation combat element for the II Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of the 2nd MAW is to conduct air operations in support of the Marine forces to include Offensive air support, anti air warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance, electronic warfare, and control of aircraft and missiles / As a collateral function, the MAW may participate as an integral component of naval aviation in the execution of such other Navy functions as the Fleet Commander may direct / During the Vietnam War, 2nd MAW supplied combat-ready units and personnel to operations in the Asian Theater / The VMT-1 (Marine Corps Torpedo Squadron) squadron has trained Marines on a variety of aviation platforms, but was officially tasked with the mission of training Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier pilots



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WATZ**

JAMES

H.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Captain James H. Watz honorably served in the United States Army / CPT James Walz was an officer in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps at Canisius and Boston College / Placed on active duty, Captain Walz was assigned to the Judge Advocate Generals Corps and was a chief of military justice / CPT James Walz joined the faculty at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was an associate professor of law

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Walz was a 1959 graduate of Riverside High School, where he was an all-state tennis player / James Walz earned a Bachelor's Degree from Canisius College in 1963 and graduated summa cum laude from Boston College Law School / Walz became a partner in the law firm of Phillips Lytle LLP whose specialty was commercial real estate / James Walz was chairman of the board for the Christian Foundation for the Performing Arts Festival Chorus and was a member of the Grand Island Historical Society and the Friends of the Grand Island Library / Walz was a tour guide and volunteer at Old Fort Niagara / James Walz was honored as a Grand Island Citizen of the Year in 2013 / James H. Watz passed away on 22 march 2022 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEAVER**

JOSEPH

H.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph H. Weaver honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Joseph Weaver was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corp on 30 November 1973

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph H. Weaver passed away on 24 January 2018 at the age of 65 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews, Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEBB**

EDWIN

M.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: TSGT

Year Entered: 1956

Year Discharged: 1976

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Technical Sergeant Edwin M. Webb honorably served in the United States Air Force / TSGT Edwin Webb served a 20-year career and was stationed in South Carolina, Florida, Okinawa, Germany, California, Thailand, Alaska and Virginia

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edwin Webb was a member of the Villenova Grange, the Randolph American Legion, VFW of Grand Island and a lifetime member of the Silver Creek AMVETS / Edwin M. Webb passed away on 4 February 2011 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Randolph Cemetery, Randolph, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEBER**
LEE

Hometown: ANGOLA

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lee Weber honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lee Weber owned and operated, Weber's Kendall Station, Weber's Bait and Tackle and the Angola Taxi, in Angola for many years / Lee Weber passed away on 27 November 2024

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WEBSTER
HOWARD

Hometown: WEST SENECA

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:

Howard Webster honorably served in the United States Army as a Cook and was deployed to Vietnam

Howard Webster was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Webster attended St. Thomas Aquinas School and graduated from Bishop Timon High School in 1967 / Webster earned an Associates Degree in Food Service from Erie Community College / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Howard Webster worked as a restaurant manager and as a heavy equipment operator on highway and construction projects, including the Eastern Hills Mall / Howard Webster joined the Erie County Sheriff's Department as a Correction Officer in the Erie County Holding Center / Webster was a longtime member of the Police Emerald Society, an organization of law enforcement officers of Irish heritage / Howard Webster retired from the Erie County Sheriff's Department in 2010 / Webster coached youth hockey for many years at Cazenovia Park, where he was inducted onto the Wall of Fame / Webster was a member of the Cazenovia Park Hockey Association Board of Directors / Howard Webster was also a hockey referee for 25 years, officiating almost 1,700 games and was a member of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association Howard "Bud" Webster passed away on 24 September 2024 at the age of 75 years old

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



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operations; and food and supply ordering

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEDGWOOD**

WILLIAM E.

Hometown: WALES

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 E. "Bill" Wedgwood honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Wedgwood retired from United Association (U.A.) Local #22 Plumbers and Steamfitters / Wedgwood was also a former Real Estate Agent for Tank Real Estate / William E. "Bill" Wedgwood passed away on 13 April 2025 at the age of 85 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEHLAND**
DENNIS

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:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEIDNER**

ALBERT J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-7

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1983

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "B", 2ND BATTALION, 34TH ARMOR
HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BATTALION, 64TH ARMY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (2)

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/50 DEVICE

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/6 SERVICE STARS

4 OVERSEAS BARS

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class (SFC) Albert Joseph Weidner honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Albert Weidner was deployed to Vietnam and assigned as an Armor Crewman and as an Infantry Sergeant / SFC Weidner was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for bravery under combat conditions

Sergeant First-Class Albert J. Weidner retired from the U.S. Army after 17 years of active duty

Base Assignments:

Fort Carson, Colorado - Fort Carson is a United States Army post located directly south of Colorado Springs in El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, and Huerfano counties, Colorado / Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / The 89th Infantry Division was the first major unit to be activated at Camp Carson / During World War II, over 100,000 soldiers trained at Camp Carson. Along with three other infantry divisions: the 71st Infantry Division, 104th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division / More than 125 units were activated at Camp Carson and more than 100 others were transferred to the mountain post from other installations / Camp Carson was designated Fort Carson in 1954 / In the 1960s, mechanized units were assigned to the fort and it was expanded to the 137,000 acres / Throughout its history Fort Carson has been used for large force-on-force maneuver training / Comprehensive maneuver and live fire training also



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occurs downrange at Fort Carson / Exercises and deployments continually hone the skills of Fort Carson soldiers / In 2003, most Fort Carson units were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom / Troops from the 984th Military Police CO, 759th Military Police Battalion were also sent in support of the guard mission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba

Miscellaneous:

Albert Weidner was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

On 1 October 1963, the 306th Tank Battalion was designated the 2nd Battalion 34th Armor and was officially activated at Fort Irwin, California, as part of the 4th Infantry Division / On 3 August 1966 the battalion was alerted for movement to the Republic of South Vietnam / Arriving at Vung Tau on 10 September 1966 with their M48A3 Patton Tanks, the battalion began conducting limited operations with the 173d Airborne and 1st Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion 34th Armor was known as the "DREADNAUGHTS", meaning they could do the impossible and feared nothing / While under operational control of the 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor was conducting search and destroy operations in the II Field Force Area / In 1967 the Battalion began to participate in larger combined arms operations / Operation Junction City, which began in the early part of March 1967, saw 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor conducting search and destroy operations as part of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force / On 21 March 1967, the battalion distinguished itself in combat near the village of Soui Tre / Fire Support Base Gold, established only two days prior, had come under attack from the 272d Viet Cong Main Force Regiment consisting of over 1100 soldiers / In a four hour battle in which the "Dreadnaughts" helped turn an enemy victory into a defeat, 2nd Battalion 34th Armor received its second Presidential Unit Citation / From 1 August 1967 to 20 August 1967, it earned the Valorous Unit Award for being involved in fierce fighting against well-fortified and prepared Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regulars in the Quang Ngai Province

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

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

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

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,



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meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months

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

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal was awarded by the Vietnam Government to military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting the enemy and have been cited individually at the regiment, brigade, division, corps, or armed forces level

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WEINERT

RICHARD W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Richard W. "Dick" Weinert honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Weinert attended and graduated from Kent State University in Ohio where he played for the Kent State Football Team / Weinert was the President of Terrabind International, a road stabilization company / Richard Weinert was the Founder and Coach of the State Champion Soccer Club (Germania Harriers) / Richard W. "Dick" Weinert passed away on 10 March 2023 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WEIS

WILLIAM E.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

William E Weis honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Weis graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School / Weis was a lifetime member and former President of the Grand Island Volunteer Fire Company / William Weis worked for the Grand Island Highway Department until retiring in 2011 / Weis moved to the Villages, Florida in 2013 / William E Weis passed away on 10 January 2018 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WEIS, JR.

FRANCIS R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

91ST EVACUATION HOSPITAL

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Captain Francis Robert Weis, Jr., MD honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Robert Weis was stationed in Tuy Hoa, Vietnam from 1966 to 1968 with the 563rd Clearing Company, 91st Evacuation Hospital / Captain Weiss as awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for service above and beyond and placing himself in harm's way to protect others

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis Weis graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1960 / Weis graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1964 / Dr. Weiss served as a physician and professor of anesthesia for 19 years / In 1989, Dr. Francis Weis moved to Mobile, Alabama and worked as a physician and professor of anesthesia for the residency program at the University of South Alabama hospitals for 22 years / Weis received many achievement awards including Teacher of the Year / After retiring, Dr. Weiss volunteered his services during a medical mission to Kenya, Africa / Dr. Francis Robert Weis, Jr. passed away on 5 January 2024 at the age of 85 Years old

The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) is a military decoration of the United States Army that is presented to soldiers who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility / The performance must be such as to merit recognition for service that is clearly exceptional / The exceptional performance of normal duty will not alone justify an award of this decoration

The history of the 91st Evacuation Hospital can be traced to the 6th Surgical Hospital, which was largely involved



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in actions in France during World War I / In preparation for World War II, the 6th Surgical Hospital was reactivated on 1 August 1940, at Fort Knox, Kentucky / The unit was officially re-designated as the 91st Evacuation Hospital on 31 August 1942, while the unit's personnel were still located at Fort Knox, Kentucky / The 91st Evacuation Hospital served in Morocco, Algeria, Sicily, France, Holland, Germany and England during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the 91st Evacuation Hospital was established at Chu Lai in July 1969, taking over the facilities previously used by the 312th Evacuation Hospital, to support operations in the Delta area of South Vietnam / The 91st EVAC was staffed with 113 medical officers and 223 enlisted personnel, treating all acute injuries, including brain surgery as well as heart and eye surgery / The 91st EVAC operated in direct support of the 23rd Infantry Division - AMERICAL in both Quang Tin and Quang Ngai Provinces of Southern Military Region / The dispensary/out-patient service also provided medical care for 1500 USARV personnel assigned to Chu Lai post / The hospital treated an average of 800 patients per month in 1970-71 / The 91st Evacuation Hospital served in Vietnam from 14 December 1966 to November 1971, receiving two unit awards



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WEISENBURG

LEON R.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Leon R. Weisenburg honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEISS**

ROGER C.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

24TH US ARMY MISSILE DETACHMENT, 512TH U.S. ARMY FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, 59TH
ORDNANCE BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Roger C. Weiss honorably served in the United States Army / SP Roger Weiss had 12 months of foreign service in Germany, assigned to the 24th US Army Missile Detachment, 512th U.S. Army Field Artillery Group, 59th Ordnance Brigade as a Field Artillery Rocket Crewman

SP5 Roger Weiss was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 15 February 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Roger Weiss graduated from Kensington High School in 1964 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Weiss attended and graduated from Hilbert College and graduated Niagara University in 1972, majoring in mathematics and minored in physical education / Roger Weiss was employed by Joy Manufacturing Company (Cameron) for 40 years / Weiss broadcast local high school games on WGR 550 radio / Weiss was a volunteer with Friends of Fair for 12 years, World University Games, Wing Fest Judge and a Hospice Volunteer / Weiss received the Alan Wilson Media Award in 2022 from the Buffalo News / Roger C. Weiss passed away on 15 April 2023 at the age of 76 years old

A Field Artillery Rocket Crewman is a skilled military professional responsible for operating artillery weapons, which include cannons, howitzers, rocket launchers, and other large-caliber firearms / These crew members are vital in both offense and defense military strategies, providing long-range firepower to support ground forces in combat situations / Artillery crew members are trained to handle various artillery systems, from traditional



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towed cannons to advanced self-propelled artillery vehicles / They work as a team to load, aim, and fire these powerful weapons accurately, following precise calculations and instructions from command officers / Their duties include maintaining the artillery pieces, ensuring ammunition supplies, and executing firing procedures with speed and precision / Additionally, artillery crew members play an important role in battlefield reconnaissance, target acquisition, and adjusting fire based on real-time observations

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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WELGOSS SR**

KENNETH S.

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Kenneth S. Welgoss, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Welgoss retired from the Ken-Ton School District as a Phys Ed Teacher and Coach / Kenneth S. Welgoss, Sr. passed away on 18 December 2024 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WENTLAND

GARY E.

Hometown: NORTH COLLINS

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Gary E. Wentland honorably served in the United States Army / Gary Wentland was stationed in Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Wentland was the owner of Wentland Funeral Home and Monuments / Gary E. Wentland passed away on 3 April 2025 at the age of 73 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WENTLENT**
ALFRED

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Alfred Wentlent honorably served in the United States Army / Alfred Wentlent was deployed to Vietnam for two tours / Alfred Wentlent retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years of service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alfred Wentlent retired from Try-It Distributing after 45 years / Alfred Wentlent passed away on 31 July 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at St. Matthews Cemetery, "Field of Valor", West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WERTZ**

HOWARD C.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: 1963

Unit / Squadron:

USS COLONIAL (LSD-18)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Howard C. "Howie" Wertz honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 Howard Wertz served as an Electrician's Mate on the USS Colonial

PO2 Howard Wertz was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 30 October 1963

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Wertz was a lifelong volunteer fireman for Lakeshore Fire Department and served as Fire Chief / Howard C. "Howie" Wertz passed away on 29 November 2019 and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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

A dock landing ship (also called Landing Ship, Dock or LSD) is an amphibious warfare ship with a well dock to transport and launch landing craft and amphibious vehicles. A ship with a well deck (docking well) can transfer cargo to landing craft in rougher seas than a ship that has to use cranes or a stern ramp

USS Colonial (LSD-18) was a Casa Grande-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy, named in honor of the Colonial National Historical Park, which comprises Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown in southeastern



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Virginia / Colonial was commissioned on 15 May 1945 / From 1946 through late 1950, the Colonial participated in amphibious training out of Norfolk, conducting local, east coast, and Caribbean operations, and voyaging from Cuba and Puerto Rico as far north as Newfoundland / During the Korean War, the Colonial landed men and tanks of the 1st Marine Division at Inchon in September, and troops and equipment at Wonsan and Iwon in December 1950 / Colonial was one of the last ships to leave Hungnam in the evacuation of that area / From the close of the Korean War into 1960, Colonial continued to alternate local operations and training out of San Diego with periodic deployments to the Far East / Colonial served in several campaigns in the Vietnam War between 1965 and 1968 / The Colonial was decommissioned in 1970 at the Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility, Vallejo, California, and laid up in the Pacific Reserve Fleet, Mare Island / She was struck from the Naval Register on 15 October 1976 and sold to China for scrap / The USS Colonial received seven battle stars for Korean War service and six campaign stars for Vietnam War service

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WESP**
DEBORAH

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:

Deborah Wesp honorably served in the United States Army /Deborah Wesp was assigned as a Military Police Officer on an Air Force Base in Germany

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WEST**

ROBERT S.

Hometown: GRANT 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:

Robert S. West honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert S. West passed away on 16 October 2022 at the age of 81 years old and his remains were donated to the UB Anatomical Gift Program



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WESTBERG

WAYNE

W.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Wayne W. Westberg honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Wayne Westberg was deployed to Vietnam as an Assault Amphibious Vehicle Crewman / SGT Westberg was stationed in Vietnam for 13 months

Sergeant Wayne Westberg was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 30 April 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne W. Westberg passed away on 2 August 2025 at the age of 77 years old

Marine Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) Crewman operate and maintain assault amphibious vehicles / They prepare the vehicle, complete maintenance and operate all components of the vehicle / The AAV Crewman assist with ship to shore movements of troops and equipment

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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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WHALEN, SR.**

PAUL

F.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: **NAVY**

Rank:

Year Entered: **1964**

Year Discharged: **1965**

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Paul F. Whalen, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy and was assigned to the Navy Reconnaissance Attack Squadron Thirteen

Paul Whalen was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Station Sanford, Florida on 25 June 1965

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul F. Whalen, Sr. passed away on 28 December 2024 at the age of 78 years old

Navy Reconnaissance Attack Squadron Thirteen (RVAH-13) was a Reconnaissance Attack (Heavy) Squadron of the U.S. Navy / Originally established as Heavy Attack Squadron Thirteen (VAH-13) on 3 January 1961 it was redesignated as Reconnaissance Attack (Heavy) Squadron Thirteen (RVAH-13) on 1 November 1964 / With the increasing U.S. military involvement in Vietnam after 1964, RVAH-13 was added to the mix of RVAH squadrons participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia / In conducting pre- and post-strike reconnaissance, the RA-5C Vigilante aircraft would incur the highest loss rate of any U.S. Navy combat aircraft during the Vietnam War, and RVAH-13's experience would more than reflect this / With the end of the Vietnam War, RVAH-13 returned to stateside training and forward deployed Cold War presence operations aboard Fleet aircraft carriers / The squadron was disestablished on 30 June 1976



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WHEELER**

ERNEST

D.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ernest Duane Wheeler honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ernest Wheeler was born in Kansas City, Missouri / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Ernest Wheeler began his career as a Realtor with Hunt Real Estate in Depew, New York / Ernest Duane Wheeler passed away on 20 February 2026 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WHEELER**

RONALD H.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ronald H. "Ron" Wheeler honorably served in the US Army / Ronald Wheeler served for two years, including 18 months deployment in Southeast Asia

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Wheeler graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School in 1964 and graduated from Westminster College in Pennsylvania in 1968 / Ron Wheeler spent most of his career as a Financial Investigator for the Law Enforcement Division of the United States Treasury Department in Rochester, New York / Wheeler also was part of the New York State Attorney General's Office of the Statewide Organized Crime Task Force and the United States Attorney's Office in Western New York / For nine years, Wheeler served as an Intelligence Analyst with the Anti-Terrorism Unit of the United States Attorney General's Office in both Western New York and Northern Virginia / Ron Wheeler also taught in the Hilbert College Economic Crime Investigation Program and was a Certified Football Official for five years with the NCAA Division 1 Football Program / Wheeler served as Kenmore West's High School Alumni Association Treasurer and a member of the Scholarship Foundation / Wheeler was a member of the WNY Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners / Ronald H. "Ron" Wheeler passed away on 27 April 2023 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Elmwood Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WHEELOCK**
ALTON

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:

Alton Wheelock honorably served in the United States Military / Alton Wheelock was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WHELAN**
JAMES

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:

James Whelan honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Whelan was a former resident of Erie, Pennsylvania and Deerfield Beach, Florida / Whelan was a long-time employee of IBM in Erie, Pennsylvania / Whelan was a lifetime member of the American Legion / James Whelan passed away on 10 June 2023 after a brief illness



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WHITING**

ROGER L.

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:

Roger Lee Whiting honorably served in the United States Military / Roger Whiting was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIDOMSKI**

DANIEL

A.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 3720 SENECA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

AMERICAL DIVISION, 6TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY, HSB

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant (1LT) Daniel A. Widomski honorably served in the United States Army / 1LT Daniel Widomski was deployed to Vietnam on 29 September 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 1LT Daniel Widomski was Killed In Action on 26 February 1969 from wounds received during enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 26 February 1969, during a combat operation 1LT Widomski was assigned as the Artillery Forward Observer with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry when elements of the unit became engaged with the enemy 10 kilometers southwest of the Quang Ngai airfield / During the fire fight that followed 1LT Daniel Widomski was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

Lt. Widomski attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill and began his tour of duty in South Vietnam in August 1968 where he was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

Base Assignments:

Ft. Sill, Oklahoma - Located north of Lawton, Oklahoma, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars / Ft. Sill serves as the home of the United States Army Field Artillery School as well as the Marine Corps' site for Field Artillery MOS school, United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the 75th Fires Brigade / Fort Sill is also one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training / In 1963 the 1st Aerial Artillery Group (Provisional) was



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Town of West Seneca, New York

organized to test equipping CH-34 helicopters with rocket pods attached to each side. The rockets converted a transport aircraft, an easy target in most combat situations, into a sophisticated flying weapon capable of direct or indirect fires. It was the ancestor to the Cheyenne and Long Bow attack helicopters of today

Miscellaneous:

Daniel A. Widomski was a graduate of St. Stanislaus Parochial School in 1959 , Bishop Ryan High School and the State University at Buffalo / Widomski enlisted in the Army in August 1966 / Daniel A. Widomski was 22 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel A. Widomski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 75

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

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

The Americal Division was an infantry division of the United States Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The division was activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia / In the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, the United States had hurriedly sent a task force to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II / The new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" / This was unusual, as with the exception of the Philippine Division, all other U.S. divisions were known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division, but was rarely referred to as such, even on official orders / During the Vietnam War the division had a mixed record / It combined participation in numerous battles and campaigns / The division suffered a tactical defeat in the early morning of 28 March 1971, when Vietcong sapper commandos successfully infiltrated FSB Mary Ann / The attack destroyed key infrastructure, as well as killing 33 and wounding 83 Americans / The division was deactivated following its withdrawal from South Vietnam in November 1971

The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery was originally organized on 1 June 1917 in the Regular Army at Douglas, Arizona as Battery F, 11th Field Artillery, later reassigned to the 6th Division / The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on 19 December 1967 as a unit of the 11th Infantry Brigade / From the time of arrival in the Republic of Vietnam the men of the "On Time" 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery took part in six major campaigns / The biggest and most successful operation was Vernon Lake II (2 November 1968 through 28 February 1969). The operation was conducted in an area which preliminary intelligence indicated was a massive VC/NVA resupply and consolidation region / Supporting fire from the guns of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery combined with the efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade made Vernon Lake II the most successful operation ever undertaken in the



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

11th Brigade area of operation

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIDRZYNSKI**
JERRY

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Jerry Widrzynski honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jerry Widrzynski passed away on 3 September 2025 at the age of 82 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIECHEC**

PHILIP

G.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

1ST PLATOON, "B" BATTERY, 7TH BATTALION, 29TH ARTILLERY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

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

Service Notes:

Corporal (E-4) Philip George Wiechec honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Philip Wiechec was classified as an Electronic Instrument Repairman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Philip G. Wiechec was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons that launch munitions far beyond the range and power of infantry firearms / Modern artillery is most obviously distinguished by its long range, firing an explosive shell or rocket and a mobile carriage for firing and transport / Its most important characteristic is the use of indirect fire, whereby the firing equipment is aimed without seeing the target through its sights / Indirect fire emerged at the beginning of the 20th century and was greatly enhanced by the development of predicted fire methods in World War I / However, indirect fire was area fire; it was and is not suitable for destroying point targets; its primary purpose is area suppression / Weapons covered by the term 'modern artillery' include "cannon" artillery (such as howitzer, mortar, and field gun) and rocket artillery / Certain smaller-caliber mortars are more properly designated small arms rather than artillery, albeit indirect-fire small arms / This term also came to include coastal artillery which traditionally defended coastal areas against seaborne attack and controlled the passage of ships / With the advent of powered flight at the start of the 20th century, artillery also included ground-based anti-aircraft batteries

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIEDER**

ROBERT A.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Robert A. Wieder honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIER**

MICHAEL B.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 713 WEST AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE MEDAL W/2 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

PURPLE HEART W/1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER

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:

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Broderick Wier honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Wier was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Michael Wier was Killed In Action on 12 April 1969 from wounds received from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Long An Province, South Vietnam

On 12 April 1969, SP4 Wier's unit was in their night defensive position southwest of Saigon when it came under attack / During the engagement SP4 Wier was one of the casualties, SP4 Michael Wier was killed in the action by hostile rifle fire / SP4 Michael Wier was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Wier was a graduate of Canisius High School and Buffalo State University College / Wier was attending the University of California as a graduate student on a scholarship to study chemistry when he was drafted on 19 March 1968 / Michael Broderick Wier was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Michael Broderick Wier is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 27w, Line 69

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIER**

RICHARD F.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 713 WEST AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Richard Francis Wier honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Captain Richard Wier was deployed to Vietnam and awarded The Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

The brother of Captain Richard Wier, Army Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Broderick Wier, was Killed In Action on 12 April 1969 from wounds received from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Long An Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Wier was a 1960 graduate of Canisius High School / After earning a Bachelor's Degree from Buffalo State College in 1964, Wier enlisted in the Marine Corps / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, Richard Wier earned a Master's Degree in Education from Buffalo State and taught Social Studies for 33 years at Kenmore West Senior High School / After a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease, Richard Francis Wier passed away on 18 February 2016 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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIERCIOCH**
THOMAS G.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas G. Wiercioch honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas G. Wiercioch passed away on 17 September 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIGDOR**
DAVID L.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David L. Wigdor honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Wigdor retired from Arcata Graphics / David L. Wigdor passed away on 3 August 2025 at the age of 83 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILCOTT III**

DENNIS

L.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address: ARMY

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CMDR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Chief Master Sergeant (CMDR) Dennis Leo Wilcott III honorably served in the United States Navy / CMDR Dennis Wilcott was a Navy Seabee who served in Vietnam in 1964 and served a second tour of Vietnam in 1965 / As a Seabee, CMDR Wilcott helped construct schools and buildings on military bases / CMDR served 35 years with the U.S. Navy Seabees

Chief Master Sergeant is the 9th rank in the United States Air Force, ranking above Senior Master Sergeant and directly below Command Chief Master Sergeant

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Born in Buffalo, Dennis Wilcott graduated from Kensington High School in 1960 and attended Erie County Technical Institute, later Erie Community College, before enlisting in the Navy / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Wilcott worked as a Maintenance worker at the Niagara Falls Air Base, then worked for his family's home improvement company / Dennis Wilcott became a Building Inspector for the Town of Amherst in the late 1980s and served in that position for 20 years / Dennis L. Wilcott III passed away on 12 January 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the U.S. Naval Construction Force (NCF) / Naval Construction Battalions were conceived of as replacements for civilian construction companies in combat zones after the attack on Pearl Harbor / At the time civilian contractors had roughly 70,000 men working U.S. Navy contracts overseas / International law made it illegal for civilian workers to resist an attack and by doing so would classify them as guerrillas and could lead to summary execution / With roots dating back to World War II, the Seabees were formally established on 5 March 1942, to meet the Navy's



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growing need to construct bases, build airfields, conduct underwater construction and build roads, bridges and other support facilities while providing protection for themselves and those around them as part of the war effort / The Seabees were deployed to Vietnam twice in the 1950s to survey and map the roads / Seabee teams (501 and 502) arrived in January 1963 as the first Seabees of the Vietnam War / The last battalion withdrew late 1971 with the last Seabee teams out a year later / When it was over, 137 Seabee teams were sent to Vietnam and had built 15 CB camps and deployed 22 battalions / In the over seven decades since its founding, Seabees have gone on to serve in most major U.S. conflicts



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILCOX**

CHARLES C.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address: 562 LAKEVIEW AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVN BRIGADE, 145TH AVIATION BATTALION, 12TH AVN GROUP, 190TH AVN COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AIR MEDAL (2)

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Warrant Officer First-Class Charles Chester (Chuck) Wilcox honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Charles Wilcox was deployed to Vietnam on 19 March 1967 as a Helicopter Pilot (Utility and Light Cargo Single Rotor) / WO1 Charles Wilcox was Killed In Action on 7 December 1967 from small arms fire at Hot Landing Zone (Lz) Vic Phu Loi, Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

WO1 Charles Wilcox was Killed In Action from an incident on 7 December 1967 while performing the duty of Aircraft Commander / WO1 Wilcox was the aircraft commander on a UH-1D "Iroquois" (Huey) helicopter serving with the 190th Attack Helicopter Company (AHC) / Wilcox had been reassigned from the 187th AHC to provide training / Warrant Officer First-Class Charles C. Wilcox was gravely wounded from ground gun fire while inserting Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers into a hot Landing zone (LZ) near Phu Loi, Binh Duong Province III Corps

WO1 Wilcox had served in the Army for 2 years and had served in Vietnam for 10 months / He was a graduate of the Army's Helicopter Pilot Training Program, trained on Utility and Light Cargo Single Rotor helicopters

WO1 Wilcox had been awarded the Presidential Meritorious Award for flying 25 missions in one week

Base Assignments:



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Miscellaneous:

Charles Wilcox was a graduate of West Seneca Central High School / Wilcox attended Buffalo State College prior to his military service / Charles Chester (Chuck) Wilcox was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans, New York

Charles Chester Wilcox is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 61

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 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 190th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) was assigned to Vietnam in July-August 1967 / In December 1967, the 190th earned 68 Awards for Valor in support 25th ARVN Rangers Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) / The Officers and Men of the 190th Assault Helicopter Company set many records for Safety and Heroism earning the distinction of never having a major aircraft accident and received over 300 Awards for Valor and received the Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 190th Assault Helicopter Company was inactivated on 10 December 1970

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

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

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



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awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILCOX, JR.**

HOWARD E.

Hometown: GETZVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: COL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1994

Unit / Squadron:

INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

ARMY OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (4)

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (3)

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2)

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

Service Notes:

Colonel Howard E. "Bud" Wilcox, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Colonel Howard Wilcox served our nation for a total of 26 years on active duty in the US Army from 1968-1994 / During his career he held the following Military Specialties: Personnel Programs Management Staff; Personnel Systems Management; Adjutant General, General; Ordnance, General; Operations Research, General; and Community Activities Management / Colonel Wilcox's last duty assignment was with the US Army Information Systems Command

Colonel Howard Wilcox received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 31 May 1994

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard E. "Bud" Wilcox, Jr. passed away on 5 November 2023 and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command (USAISEC) mission is to provide Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) systems engineering support that enables the mission command of the Army and joint warfighter worldwide / USAISEC provides engineering and associated support of Information Technology (IT) at Army posts, camps, and stations; interconnection between installations; extension to deployed forces; and subject matter expertise to Program



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Executive Offices (PEOs)

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

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

The Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) is an award presented in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces / It is the third-highest award that the Department of Defense issues, and is awarded to those who distinguish themselves through non-combat meritorious service or achievement, in a joint capacity

The Army Service Ribbon (ASR) is a military award of the United States Army and is awarded to all members of the Regular (Active) Army, and Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve in an active reserve status, for successful completion of initial-entry training, which for officers is considered to be successful completion of their basic/orientation or higher-level course / Enlisted soldiers will be awarded the ribbon upon successful completion of their initial military occupational specialty (MOS)-producing course

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

The Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) is a military decoration of the United States Department of Defense, which is presented to United States Armed Forces service members who perform superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility / The decoration is most often presented to general and flag officers, followed by a lesser number of Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force colonels and Navy and Coast Guard captains / The medal is presented in the name of the United States Secretary of Defense and was established by President Gerald R. Ford on February 6, 1976, in Executive Order 11904 / It is analogous and senior to the Legion of Merit, albeit awarded for service in a joint duty capacity

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILCOX, JR.**

WILLIAM E.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address: 193 TREMONT AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 8TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

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:

Specialist Fourth-Class William Eidman Wilcox, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 William Wilcox was deployed to Vietnam on 24 August 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 William Wilcox was Killed In Action on 10 May 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations at Firebase (Fsb) 25, Vicinity of Ben Het, Kontum Province, South Vietnam

On 10 May 1968, Specialist Four William Eidman Wilcox, Jr. was serving with Company C, an infantry unit, near Binh Het / He was in charge of a listening post located 300 meters from his company's perimeter / Seeing movement near his station, he radioed the company command post of the imminent danger / Moments later a North Vietnamese Army force launched a ground assault supported by mortars, rockets and heavy machine guns / He called in artillery and hurled grenades in an attempt to halt the attack, which was sweeping directly toward his position / Knowing that he and his men would soon be overrun, he organized a withdrawal and covered his troops' exit, killing several communists at a distance of 10 meters / He remained at the rear of his element, exposed to intense fire, until it was within 25 meters of his company's perimeter / There the NVA attackers began to flank his men, threatening to cut them off / SPC4 Wilcox stood facing the enemy, firing his rifle and throwing grenades so his comrades could cross the perimeter / As he single-handedly faced the onslaught of the North Vietnamese forces, he was mortally wounded

SPC4 Wilcox's courageous actions and extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life, earned him the U.S. Army's



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second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross / SP4 Wilcox was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Wilcox was a graduate of East High School in Buffalo / Prior to entering the Army, William Wilcox was a Freight Transportation Inspector with the New York Central Railroad / Wilcox was inducted into the U.S. Army on 23 March 1967 / William Eidman Wilcox, Jr. was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

William Eidman Wilcox, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 58e, Line 17

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

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

The 8th Infantry Regiment was constituted as an infantry regiment on 5 July 1838 in the Regular Army / The 8th Infantry is also known as the "Fighting Eagles", is an infantry regiment in the United States Army / The 8th Infantry participated in the Mexican War, American Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Moro Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, and Iraq Campaign / The 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, was originally constituted on 5 July 1838 in the Regular Army as Company B, 8th Infantry, and organized at Detroit, Michigan / It consolidated in May 1869 with Company B, 33d Infantry, with the consolidated unit being designated as Company B, 8th Infantry / During Operation Wayne Grey at Landing Zone Brace 3 March 1969 in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion Company "A" had at least 21 fatalities

The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) is the United States Army's second highest military decoration for soldiers who display extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force / Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations, but which do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor / The Distinguished Service Cross is only awarded for actions in combat / The Army Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Naval Services' Navy Cross, the Air and Space Forces' Air Force Cross, and the Coast Guard Cross. Prior to the creation of the Air Force Cross in 1960, airmen were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units 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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Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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

Specialist Fourth-Class William Eidman Wilcox, Jr. 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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Name: **WILCZEWSKI**

JAMES

L.

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:

James L. Wilczewski honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James L. Wilczewski passed away on 9 October 2024 at the age of 83 years old



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Name: **WILD**

ROBERT J.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Robert J. Wild honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Wild was assigned as a Radio Teletype Operator for 12 months while stationed in Vietnam

Specialist 4th Class Robert J. Wild received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 22 October 1970

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Wild was a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) #2692, American Legion Post #735 and American Legion Post #1626 / Robert J. Wild passed away on 17 October 2017 at the age of 68 years old

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

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



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

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



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Name: **WILE**

MARVIN H.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Marvin H. Wile honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Marvin H. Wile passed away on 12 January 2022



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Name: **WILLARD**
ELMER J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Elmer J. Willard honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Elmer J. Willard passed away 10 December 2012 and is interred at the Bath National Cemetery, Bath, New York



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Name: **WILLIAMS**
ALLEN

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:

Allen Williams honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Allen Williams was a longtime member of the Buffalo Launch Club / Allen Williams passed away on 1 October 2025 at the age of 82 years old



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Name: **WILLIAMS**
CHARLES

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1971

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

3RD IND, 40TH COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON
40TH SECURITY POLICE FLIGHT

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Charles Williams honorably served in the United States Air Force A1C Charles Williams was assigned to the Air Force Security Police / Charles Williams transferred to the U.S. Navy where he served as a Surface Ship Sonar Technician, 3rd Class Petty Officer (STG3)

Charles Wilson received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force in February 1971 and his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy in April 1977

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Wilson was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

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 40th Fighter Squadron was started at Selfridge airfield in Michigan on 22 December 1939



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Name: WILLIAMS

JACK

S.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Jack S. Williams honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jack S. Williams passed away on 22 December 2024 at the age of 89 years old



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Name: **WIND**
GERALD

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gerald "Jerry" Wind honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Wind was a retired Auto Worker / Gerald "Jerry" Wind passed away on 26 April 2023 at the age of 81 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WIND

MICHAEL H.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MSGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: 1987

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Michael H. Wind honorably served in the United States Air Force / MSGT Michael Wind was deployed to Vietnam as part of a Medevac Unit / MSGT Michael Wind was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in a combat zone and was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered during combat operations / MSGT Wind retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service

While stationed in Alabama, SSGT Wind earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Troy State University

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Michael Wind worked for Peter J. Schmitt, the Buffalo News, and Tops Markets as a Computer Analyst / After his retirement, Wind moved to The Villages in Florida / Michael H. Wind passed away on 5 July 2025 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WING**
KENNETH

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Kenneth "Ken" Wing honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Wing retired from General Motors after 32 years of employment and moved to Phoenix, Arizona /
Kenneth "Ken" Wing passed away on 4 January 2026 at the age of 84 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIRTH, SR.**

DAVID E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-3

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY C, 8TH MOTOR TRANSPORTATION BATTALION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal David E. "Poncho" Wirth, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL David Wirth was assigned as a Motor Vehicle Operator with the 8th Motor Transportation Battalion

David Wirth received his Honorable Discharge from the US Marine Corps on 4 June 1971

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

David E. "Poncho" Wirth, Sr. passed away on 24 October 2019

The United States Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) were combined general and special purpose forces within the United States Department of the Navy that were designed in engaging offensive amphibious or expeditionary warfare and defensive maritime employment / During World War II, the Fleet Marine Force had units in the western Pacific assigned to the United States Asiatic Fleet

The mission of the Motor Transportation Battalion was to provide intermediate maintenance support for the



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Town of West Seneca, New York

motor transport equipment of the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WISHMAN**

RONALD E.

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT MAJOR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

105 MILITARY POLICE (MP), 3RD BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Command Sergeant-Master Ronald E. Wishman honorably served in the New York Army National Guard until retirement

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Wishman was a retired Buffalo Police Officer / Wishman was President of the Veteran Association 74th/174th and a member of Amvets Post #14 / Ronald E. Wishman passed away on 5 January 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 105th Military Police Company was deployed to northern Iraq in 2011 for its mission as a Police Transition Team / The unit conducted a broad range of missions from convoy and dignitary security to area and route security as well as training Iraqi police forces

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WISNIER**

GARY

W.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 230 SCHILLER STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Gary M. Wisnier honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Gary Wisnier was deployed to Vietnam on 3 October 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Gary Wisnier was Killed In Action on 29 April 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam / 12 other paratroopers died with SP4 Gary Wisnier on that day

SP4 Gary Wisnier was wounded by shrapnel in March 1968, but after treatment at a military medical facility he return for duty with his unit / During a combat operation on 29 April 1968 against enemy forces in Thua Thien Province, SP4 Wisnier was hit and killed by hostile rifle fire, in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Veghel some 28 kilometers southwest of Hue City

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Wisnier joined the U.S. Army in February 1966 / Gary M. Wisnier was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Gary W. Wisnier is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53e, Line 9



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

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

The 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 1972

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WISNIEWSKI**

RICHARD M.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

4TH MISSILE BATTALION, 41ST ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 56TH ARTILLERY GROUP

Medals / Citations:

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY DRIVER & MECHANIC BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Richard M. Wisniewski honorably served in the United States Army / Richard Wisniewski was deployed for 10 months as a Field Artillery Missile Crewman while stationed in West Germany with the US Army Artillery branch

Richard Wisniewski received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 2 February 1965

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard M Wisniewski passed away on 6 February 2023 at the age of 80 years old

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



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The 4th Missile Battalion, 41st Artillery Regiment was activated on 14 January 1963 per General Order 428 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, with four Pershing 1 missiles / The battalion began training and completed live fires at Fort Wingate, New Mexico / The battalion and equipment shipped aboard the USAT General Simon B. Buckner on 3 April 1964 bound for West Germany / The unit deployed to Schwäbisch Gmünd under the 56th Artillery Group and was garrisoned on Hardt and Bismark Kasernes / The battalion increased to six launchers in 1964 and to eight launchers in 1965 / The battalion exchanged the Pershing 1 missiles for 36 Pershing 1a missiles in 1969 / The battalion was inactivated on 29 September 1972 by General Order 1033 and reflagged as the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment

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

The Driver and Mechanic Badge is a military special skill badge of the United States Army which was first created in July 1942 / The badge is awarded to drivers, mechanics, and special equipment operators to denote the attainment of a high degree of skill in the operation and maintenance of motor vehicles / The badge was originally referred to as the "Motor Vehicle Badge" and adopted its current title of Driver and Mechanic Badge during the Korean War / The Driver and Mechanic Badge is awarded to soldiers who have received training and have met specific qualification standards to operate or repair military motor vehicles / The Driver and Mechanic Badge for wheeled vehicles requires successful completion of military vehicle operations and maintenance training and be assigned duties and responsibilities as a driver or assistant driver of government vehicles for a minimum of 12 consecutive months or have driven at least 8,000 miles with no vehicle accidents or traffic violations before one can be awarded the badge

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

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WISNIEWSKI**

THOMAS R.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1965

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY D, 93RD SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 4th Class Thomas R. Wisniewski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 was assigned as a Radio Relay and Carrier Operator and was stationed in Germany for 18 months

SP4 Thomas R. Wisniewski received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 14 April 1965

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas R. Wisniewski passed away on 30 September 2017 at the age of 78 years old

The 93rd Signal Brigade is a unit of the United States Army which was active sporadically from 1941 to the present / Its mission has been to deploy, install, operate, and maintain a global tactical theater communications package, while supporting joint and combined operations / During World War II, the 93rd participated in the battles for Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe / The 93rd also served in Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi Arabia; Liberation and Defense of Kuwait; Cease-Fire / The 93rd Signal Brigade was deactivated on 23 April 2007, and replaced by the 35th Signal Brigade / The Brigade was reactivated at Fort Eustis, Virginia on 16 July 2008 to support the 7th Signal Command (Theater)

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WITCZAK**

DANIEL S.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Daniel S. Witczak honorably served in the United States Army / Daniel Witczak 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: **WITTENZELLNER**

WALTER J.

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:

Walter J. Wittenzellner honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter Wittenzellner was a lifetime member of the Getzville Fire Company / Walter J. Wittenzellner passed away on 2 April 2024 at the age of 87 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WITTMAYER

DENNIS

G.

Hometown: BOSTON

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: 1967

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

21ST ENGINEER COMPANY, OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (OCE)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS BAR

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: (RIFLE)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist 5th Class Dennis G. Wittmeyer honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Dennis Wittmeyer was deployed to Vietnam as a Map Compiler

SP5 Dennis Wittmeyer was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 9 November 1967

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Wittmeyer was a member of the Carpenters Local Union #275 / Dennis G. Wittmeyer passed away on 7 April 2022 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works / The corps' mission is to



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"deliver vital public and military engineering services; partnering in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters"

The 21st Engineer Company was organized 31 December 1861 in the Regular Army at Washington, D.C. from new and existing companies of engineers as a provisional engineer battalion

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

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

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

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. 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: **WNEK**
MICHAEL

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

FIFTH UNITED STATES ARMY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Michael Wnek honorably served in the United States Army as a Heavy Truck Driver

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Wnek was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

The United States Fifth Army was one of the principal formations of the U.S. Army in the Mediterranean during World War II, and was the first American field army ever to be activated outside of the United States / It was officially activated on 5 January 1943 at Oujda, French Morocco and made responsible for the defense of Algeria and Morocco / The Fifth Army first saw action during the Salerno landings (Operation Avalanche), the assault landings at Salerno, part of the Allied invasion of Italy, in September 1943 / Its role in Italy cost the Fifth Army 109,642 casualties in 602 days of combat, of which 19,475 were killed in action / The Fifth Army headquarters returned to the United States in September 1945 / Fifth Army was inactivated on 2 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts and reactivated on 11 June 1946

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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: **WOJCICKI**

KENNETH A.

Hometown: **BUFFALO**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: **ARMY**

Rank: **SGT**

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Kenneth A. Wojcicki honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Wojcicki was a radio and TV repairman at Martinos in Buffalo / Kenneth A. Wojcicki passed away on 17 February 2026 at the age of 78 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WOOD**

JACK

F.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE (H&S) COMPANY, SCOLS BATTALION, MARINE CORPS BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Jack Frederick Wood honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Jack Wood was assigned as an Anti-Tank Assault Man and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received during combat action

Base Assignments:

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / The camp was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / During World War II, Camp Pendleton training facilities included landing craft school, amphibious tractor school, beach battalion school, amphibious communications school, Naval Construction Battalion Training Center and a medical field service school at the naval hospital at Santa Margarita Ranch / The facility was used as a discharge base for soldiers returning from Europe and Asia after World War II ended in 1945 / Camp Pendleton trained the country's Marine Corps fighting force of approximately 200,000 Marines for the Korean and Vietnam Wars

Miscellaneous:

Jack F. Wood was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The Marine Corps Headquarters and Service company includes all command, administration, intelligence, operations, logistics, and communication Marines and equipment, as well as the battalion's Scout Sniper platoon and Battalion Aid Station (BAS) staffed by U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman

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

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

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

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

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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WOODMAN**
WAYNE

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:

Wayne Woodman honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wayne Woodman was the past Commander of AMVETS Post #14 and a member of the Sons of the Revolution /
Wayne Woodman passed away on 10 March 2020



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WOZNIAK**

DAVID J.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1973

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David John "Peepa" Wozniak honorably served in the Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Wozniak played drums in the Kenmore-Tonawanda Symphony Orchestra and sung in the Chopin Singing Society / Wozniak was a former employee of Dresser-Rand Corporation, Ernst Steel of Cheektowaga, Burns Copy Products of Buffalo and M&T Bank / David John "Peepa" Wozniak passed away on 13 March 2011 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at Maple Grove Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WOZNIAK**

JAMES E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address:

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

71ST TRANSPORTATION BATTALION, 4TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (.45 CALIBER PISTOL)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class James Edward Wozniak honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 James Wozniak was deployed to Vietnam for 7 months as a Personnel Management Specialist

James Wozniak was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 30 March 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Edward Wozniak passed away on 22 January 2024 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The 71st Transportation Battalion was constituted 1 May 1936 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 2nd Battalion, 48th Quartermaster Regiment / Reorganized and redesignated 21 March 1973 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 71st Transportation Battalion / Headquarters, 71st Transportation Battalion, normally known as the Expeditors, arrived in Vietnam during August 1966, was assigned to the 4th Transportation Command (Terminal C) and charged with the mission of operating the US Army Terminal Newport, which began operation during October 1966 / The port initially consisted of shallow draft port facilities for the reception, discharge and port clearance of cargo barges, LCU's, LCM'S, and LST'S. Facilities for deep draft operations were opened during the period February - July 1969 / To accomplish the



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currently assigned mission of operating the port facilities at Newport, Saigon and Tay Ninh, provision of the harborcraft services for the III and IV Corps tactical zones, and management of the battalion cantonment at Camp Camelot, the battalion has attached the 154th, 300th, 368th, 551st, 561st and the 567th Terminal Service Companies, 372nd and 402nd Terminal Transfer Companies, and the US Army Harborcraft Company

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

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

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

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

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

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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WRATTEN

GARY

P

Hometown: ALDEN

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MAJ

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE, 45TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Major Gary Patterson Wratten honorably served in the United States Army / Major Gary Wratten was deployed to Vietnam on 13 September 1966 / Major Wratten was a Surgeon and Hospital Commander of the 45th Surgical Hospital (MUST) stationed at Tay Ninh, Vietnam / Major Gary Wratten was Killed In Action on 4 November 1966 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat operations in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam

On 20 October 1966, a Medical Unit, Self-contained, Transportable (MUST) unit arrived in Vietnam to equip the planned 45th Surgical Hospital at Tay Ninh Base Camp in Tay Ninh Province, RVN / Work was begun immediately on ground preparation and construction of quarters and a mess / The utility packs and operating room and central materiel expandables were being moved to the site when the base was hit by enemy mortars on 4 November / Sixteen rounds fell into 228th Supply & Service Company area, killing clerk-typist SP4 Robert B. Nasser / He died from a concussion after being hit in the head by metal fragments / Also lost was Major Gary P. Wratten, a surgeon and the commander of the 45th Surgical Hospital / Major Wratten died instantly after suffering a fragment wound the chest / Sixteen other people were wounded / Twelve of the injured were evacuated to five different field hospital locations

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Gary Wratten was a Batavia, New York native / Gary Wratten graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine before completing his internship at Brooke Army Medical Center / Wratten then completed a surgery residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1963, before embarking on further training in head-and-neck surgery in Baltimore / Gary Patterson Wratten was 33 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Gary Patterson Wratten is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12e, Line 25

The 45th Surgical Hospital was a United States military hospital that saw service in the China-Burma-India theater in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam / The 45th Surgical Hospital was first organized on 7 June 1943 at Camp White, Oregon as the 45th Portable Hospital / It was designed to be carried by men, pack animals or vehicles / During World War II, the 45th served in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater in support of Chinese troops / Hospital personnel endured significant hardship carrying the hospital as far as 200 kilometers through dense tropical jungles / The 45th experienced nine Japanese bombing raids in China, not to mention the ravages of malaria, dysentery and other tropical diseases / Deactivated in 1945, the 45th was reactivated 1953 to support the Korean War / The 45th served in the Third Winter Campaign and the Summer-Fall Campaign of 1953 / In April 1966, the 45th was the first hospital in the world to be designated a MUST (Medical Unit, Self-contained, Transportable) unit / Shortly thereafter, it was alerted for overseas deployment / The main body arrived Vung Tau, South Vietnam by ship, 4 October 1966 / The operational site for the 45th was the Base Camp of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade near Tay Ninh, South Vietnam / The advanced party set up at the Tay Ninh Base Camp and proceeded to convert part of a tapioca plantation into a site for the hospital / On 2 November 1966, after several weeks of hard work, the set-up was complete and the personnel pushed to complete set-up in time to support Operation Attleboro, in War Zone C / On 13 November 1966 the hospital treated the first patient of the Vietnam War in its MUST set-up at Tay Ninh Base Camp / On the evening of 16 February 1968, four 107 MM rockets hit the hospital area and on 23 February 1969, the Base Camp came under heavy rocket attack / Forty casualties were sustained throughout the camp / From March through May 1969, Tay Ninh Base Camp continued to be pounded with rocket and mortar fire by the enemy / During this period, 700 rocket and mortar rounds hit the Base Camp / Seventeen of these rounds landed in the hospital area wounding 12 hospital personnel, killing one civilian employee, and causing significant damage to hooches and other hospital facilities / The 45th Surgical Hospital holds the distinction of being the longest-active portable hospital and paved the way for the iconic M*A*S*H (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) units that followed

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



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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

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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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WRAZEN
GERALD**

Hometown: SLOAN

Address: 43 LEHIGH STREET

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Captain Gerald Wrazen honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Gerald Wrazen was deployed to Vietnam on 17 June 1968 as an Airborne Qualified Infantry Unit Commander / CPT Gerald Wrazen was Killed In Action on 22 February 1969 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations at LZ (landing zone) Betty Currahee Basecamp, Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

On the night 22 Feb 1969 Captain Gerald Wrazen was in a bunker at Lz (Landing Zone) Betty near Phan Thiet, RVN / A main force of Viet Cong (VC) and NVA mounted a ground attack against the LZ / Captain Wrazen was directing fire against the enemy in support of a bunker on the beach where other paratrooper were fighting for their lives against a sustained ground assault / CAPT Wrazen was struck down and killed with two other paratroopers by small arms fire

Captain Gerald Wrazen was awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for bravery while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

Captain Gerald Wrazen was a career soldier, enlisting in the Army when he was 17 years old and received his commission upon graduation from Officer Candidate School / Captain Wrazen was serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Wrazen was 28 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillside Memorial Park, Laurinburg, North Carolina

Gerald Wrazen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32w, Line 84

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The 506th Infantry Regiment, originally designated the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (506th PIR) during World War II, is an airborne light infantry regiment of the United States Army / Currently a parent regiment under the U.S. Army Regimental System, the regiment has two active battalions: the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (1-506th IR) is assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (2-506th IR) is assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division / Both battalions were part of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, which was deployed to Vietnam from late 1967 to 1971 / 1-506th was recognized for its role during the Tet Offensive in early 1968 and the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 together with 2-506th, during the battle of FSB Ripcord / The 506th, was reorganized as Airmobile in 1968, later renamed Air Assault in 1974 / During the Vietnam War, five soldiers from the 506th were awarded the Medal of Honor / On 1 April 1967 the colors of the former Company C, 506AIR were reactivated at Fort Campbell as HHC, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Assigned to the 1st Brigade, it served in Vietnam and was inactivated at Fort Campbell on 31 July 1972

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

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

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

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

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

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



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6 December 1941

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

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

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

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

Captain Gerald Wrazen was also awarded the following Military honors:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WRAZEN**

JAMES T.

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:

James T. Wrazen honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Wrazen worked for the Erie County Department of Health, Environmental Health Services / Wrazen owned several horses and held a New York State Owner's license and Racing license for harness racing competitions / James Wrazen was a volunteer for meal on Wheels and placed 2nd in the Nationwide Meal on Wheels "American Volunteer Contest" / James T, Wrazen passed away on 10 April 2025 at the age of 78 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WRIGHT**

DAVID

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:

David (Dave) Allan Wright honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Wright was a former Detroit Police Department Police Officer, and US Customs Special Agent / Wright was appointed as the Special Agent in Charge of the Buffalo US Customs Office, New York / Following his 34-year career in law enforcement, Dave Wright became a member of the Judges and Police Executives Conference of Erie County and the Western New York Police Pistol League / David (Dave) Allan Wright passed away on 26 May 2025 at the age of 87 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WROBEL**

JOSEPH

D.

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Joseph D. Wrobel honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Wrobel was a member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) / Joseph D. Wrobel passed away on 14 July 2024 at the age of 76 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WRUCK**
JEFFREY

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Jeffrey Wruck honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jeffrey Wruck was a member of the Du Drop Athletic Club and a member of AMVETS Buddy Knaus Post #14 /
Jeffrey Wruck passed away on 17 September 2025



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WYATT

CHRISTOPHER B.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Christopher B. Wyatt honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Christopher B. Wyatt passed away on 1 December 2025 at the age of 81 years old



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: WYZYKOWSKI

JOSEPH R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1970

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE 60
 ARMY INFANTRYMAN BADGE
 NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS
 ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph Wzykowski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Joseph Wzykowski was deployed to Vietnam from late 1968 to September 1969

Base Assignments:

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

Ft. Carson, Colorado - Located near Colorado Springs, Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor / Camp Carson was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / Camp Carson was redesignated as Ft. Carson in 1954 / Fort Carson is the home of the 4th Infantry Division, the 10th Special Forces Group, the 440th Civil Affairs Battalion (USAR), the 71st Ordnance Group (EOD), the 4th Engineer Battalion, the 759th Military Police Battalion, the 10th Combat Support Hospital, the 43rd Sustainment Brigade, the Army Field Support Battalion-Fort Carson, the 423rd Transportation Company (USAR) and the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron of the United States Air Force.

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Joseph Wyzykowski attended Burgard High School in Buffalo prior to military service / After an Honorable Discharge, Wyzykowski was employed as a Printer / Due to exposure to Agent Orange during his tour in Vietnam, Joseph Wyzykowski is 100% disabled

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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

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