



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZAJDOWICZ

FREDERICK P.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Frederick P. Zajdowicz honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frederick Zajdowicz was an Arson Fire Investigator with the Buffalo Fire Dept. for 30 years / Frederick P. Zajdowicz passed away on 30 June 2012 at the age of 756 years old and is interred at Whitehaven Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZBOCH, SR.

JERRY

A.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS STODDARD (DD-566)

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Jerry A. Zboch, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Jerry Zboch was stationed aboard the United States destroyer, USS Stoddard (DD-566)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jerry A. Zboch, Sr. passed away on 6 September 2023 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The USS Stoddard (DD-566) was a Fletcher-class destroyer of the United States Navy, named for Master's Mate James Stoddard, who was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. She was the last Fletcher to be stricken from the U.S. Navy, in 1975 / The Stoddard was commissioned on 15 April 1944 and served in the North Pacific with Task Force 94 / During World War II, the mission of Task Force 94 was to harass Japanese outposts in the Kuril Islands, northeast of Japan proper and west of the Aleutian Islands / In June of 1945, she participated in the Battle of Okinawa / In January 1955, she embarked upon her first deployment to the western Pacific since World War II / Soon after her arrival, she participated in the evacuation of Chinese Nationalists from the Tachen Islands / Following that operation, she served on the Taiwan Strait patrol / Stoddard followed a schedule of deployments to the Far East alternated with west coast operations throughout the remainder of her career / On 4 June 1965, the Stoddard operated along the coast of Vietnam, providing gunfire support to American and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops operating ashore against the forces of the Viet Cong (VC) insurgents and their allies, the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) regulars / On 28–29 July 1965, she joined USS John R. Craig in giving naval gunfire support to a Marine Corps unit, Hotel Company, 3rd platoon, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines north of Da Nang / At night with danger close, Craig fired 348 5-inch rounds, and Stoddard fired 148



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rounds, saving Marines on and near the beach as well as a battalion of the ARVN 2nd Regional Force, who were badly outnumbered and threatened with being overrun / In doing so the ships effectively destroyed the VC 7th Battalion engaging Marines on the Ca De River Bridge and the northern sector of Da Nang / Stoddard spent the next twelve months operating with the 1st Fleet in the waters off the west coast of the United States / Her primary mission was to maintain operational readiness through training, which ran the gamut from antisubmarine warfare exercises to bombardment drills / The USS Stoddard earned three battle stars for World War II and three battle stars for the Vietnam War / The Stoddard was decommissioned on 26 September 1969 and sunk off Hawaii on 22 July 1997 as part of naval training exercises



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ZECK**

**ROBERT C.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert C. Zeck honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert C. Zeck passed away on 14 November 2020 at the age of 78 years and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZEKAS

EDWARD S.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Edward Stanley Zekas honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Zekas was under the care of social services / Edward Stanley Zekas passed away on 30 July 2023 and is interred at St Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZEKAS

EDWARD S.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Edward Stanley Zekas honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Stanley Zekas passed away on 30 July 2023 and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZELIE

THOMAS E.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Thomas Edward Zelig honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Edward Zelig passed away on 7 August 2025 at the age of 82 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZIELINSKI

RONALD R.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

526TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON, 86TH AIR DIVISION  
431ST MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, PACIFIC AIR FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL	REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE RIBBON W/2 OAK LEAFS	OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD RIBBON
COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL	NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL	GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Ronald R. Zielinski honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSgt Zielinski served in Germany assigned to the 526th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 86th Air Division as a Weapons Mechanic / SSGT Zielinski also served 12 months in Vietnam with the 431st Munitions Maintenance Squadron, Pacific Air Force

Staff Sergeant Zielinski served a total of 5 years of active duty in the US Air Force from 1961-1965 and 1968-1969

Zielinski went on to serve for over 11 years from 1967-1978 as a Missile Systems Maintenance Technician with the Air National Guard's 107th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAM), 107th Fighter Group at Niagara Falls, NY / He attained the rank of Master Sergeant (E-7), and for his over 16 total years of service to our nation

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Zielinski was employed by Tops Markets for ten years in Maintenance / Ronald R. Zielinski passed away on 2 February 2023 at the age of 79 years old



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The 526th Fighter Squadron is an inactive United States Air Force unit / In 1954, the squadron was redesignated the 526th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron and assumed a new mission of air defense for the central European region / For this mission, the squadron was re-equipped with the rocket-armed F-86D Sabre interceptor which provided an all-weather capability / Its last assignment was with the 86th Operations Group, based at Ramstein Air Base, Germany / The unit was inactivated on 1 July 1994

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

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

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

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

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces that has existed since 1950 / The medal recognizes service performed by members of the reserve components and is awarded to both officers and enlisted personnel / The medal is considered a successor award to the Naval Reserve Medal and the Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon, which were discontinued in 1958 and 1967, respectively

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



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The 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:** **ZIELINSKI, SR.**

**THADDEUS W.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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:**

Thaddeus W. Zielinski, Sr. proudly served in the United States Coast Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thaddeus Zielinski was a member of American Legion Post #336 / Thaddeus W. Zielinski, Sr. passed away on 9 March 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ZIEMER**

**JAMMES**

**P.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **ARMY**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James Pratt Ziemer honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Ziemer was inducted into the Buffalo Baseball Hall of Fame / James Ziemer was a retired Buffalo Fireman with the rank of Lieutenant, serving the Buffalo Fire Department for over 32 years / James Pratt Ziemer passed away on 14 February 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZILLIOX

PAUL

N.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Paul N. Zilliox honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul N. Zilliox passed away on 30 June 2025 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZIMMER

ARTHUR T.

**Hometown:** ARMY

**Address:** BUFFALO

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:**

Arthur T. Zimmer honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Arthur Zimmer was born in Buffalo and later moved to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia / Arthur T. Zimmer passed away on 22 September 2018 at the age of 69 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZIMMERMAN

EDWARD J.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

OVERSEAS BAR

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 1960 DEVICE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Edward J. Zimmerman honorably served in the United States Army / Edward Zimmerman was deployed to Vietnam for 10 months and assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman

Edward Zimmerman was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 25 November 1972

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was re-named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Zimmerman worked for Monroe Title and later at Niagara Square Abstract / Edward J. Zimmerman passed away on 7 January 2026 at the age of 76 years old

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate



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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 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:** ZIMNIEWICZ SR

VALENTINE 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: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Valentine Zimniewicz honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Valentine Zimniewicz retired from the Buffalo Water Authority / Valentine T. Zimniewicz, Sr. passed away on 13 December 2022 at the age of 75 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZIMPFER

FRED

C.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 5303 SENECA STREET

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

AERO RIFLE PLATOON, F TROOP, 8TH CAVALRY, AMERICAL DIV,

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First Class Fred Charles Zimpfer honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Fred Zimmer was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Fred Zimpfer was Killed in Action on 15 February 1970 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 15 February 1970, an enemy bunker complex was discovered in the Tien Phuoc District of Quang Tin Province at the end of Route 586, some 22 kilometers west of Tam Ky / During the engagement with the enemy, PFC Fred Zimpfer was killed by cross fire by friendly troops during the attack on the fortified positions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Fred Charles Zimpfer was 26 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Fred Charles Zimpfer is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 17



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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 main mission of the Aero Rifle Platoon, a Recon element, was to perform ground reconnaissance of areas that the scout ships cannot check out by air / They were not a main fighting force and only about 32 soldiers are inserted at any one time, although they could handle a small numbers of Viet Cong / Anything of a larger size would have to be dealt with by a regular infantry company which would be brought in by an Assault Helicopter Company / Another function of the Aero Rifle Platoon was to secure any of downed aircraft until it could be extracted

The 8th Cavalry Regiment is a regiment of the United States Army formed in 1866 during the American Indian Wars / The 8th Cavalry continued to serve under a number of designations, fighting in every other major U.S. conflict since, except World War I, when it was not deployed to Europe because it was already engaged in the Punitive Expedition in Mexico from 1916 to 1920 / It is currently a component of the 1st Cavalry Division / The regiment originally was organized as horse cavalry in 1866, a designation under U.S. military doctrine that emphasized both light cavalry and dragoon-type mounted and dismounted fighting roles, until 1942 / It served on foot during World War II and Korea, with some elements converting to airmobile infantry for Vietnam, while others were detached and assigned to West Germany as part of an armored task force to resist any potential Soviet incursion / In 1965, 1st Battalion (ABN), 8th Cavalry Regiment arrived in Vietnam, and participated in numerous campaigns in South Vietnam and Cambodia / The battalion was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, the Valorous Unit Citation, and four soldiers were awarded with the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ZIOLKOWSKI**

**MICHAEL J.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

TROOP "C", 3RD SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY REGIMENT, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS SERVICE BAR

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 4th Class Michael J. Ziolkowski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Ziolkowski was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months as a Cook

Michael Ziolkowski received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 15 September 1967

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael J. Ziolkowski passed away on 19 May 2018 at the age of 72 years old and is interred at Saint Augustine Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

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

The 4th Cavalry Regiment is one of the most famous and most decorated regiments in the United States Army / Since its activation in 1855, the 4th Cavalry has continuously served the United States of America in peace and war / The regiment has fought gallantly in the Indian Wars, the Civil War, the Philippine Insurrection, World War



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

II, Vietnam and the Gulf War / The Mobility and firepower of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division and the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division, along with tank and mechanized infantry units supported by air cavalry was very effective against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces / In the War on Terrorism, all 4th Cavalry active elements have served with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq / For its wartime service the 4th Cavalry Regiment has been awarded 61 campaign streamers, three Presidential Unit Citations, five Valorous Unit Awards and two awards of the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ZIOMEK**

**FREDERICK M.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY L, 3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD MARINE DIVISION, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**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 Frederick Martin Ziomek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Frederick Ziomek was deployed to Vietnam in February 1970 as a Machine Gun Squad Leader / After serving eight months in Vietnam, LCPL Frederick Ziomek contracted malaria and died on 6 October 1970 in the U.S. Army Hospital, Kue, Okinawa, of malaria he contracted while serving in South Vietnam

Upon the approval of the Department of Defense and direction of the National Park Service, the name of LCPL Frederick M. Ziomek was added to The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The name of LCPL Frederick M. Ziomek was added to the Western New York Vietnam Veterans Monument at Canalside in Buffalo

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frederick Ziomek graduated from Maryvale High School in 1969 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps / Frederick Martin "Fred" Ziomek was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Frederick Martin Ziomek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel W11, Line 69



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

The 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines (3/4) or (V34) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Nicknamed "Thundering Third" or Nicknamed "Darkside," it is based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, and consist of approximately 1,000 Marines / The battalion was first activated in 1925 at Naval Base San Diego, California / The 3/4 fought in World War II in the Battle of Corregidor, Guam and Okinawa / On 14 April 1965, the 3rd battalion, 4th Marines was deployed to an area near Chu Lai, South Vietnam / Two companies were sent north to Phu Bai to secure a small airfield just 8 miles south of Hue City / First contact was made on 22 April 1965 southwest of Da Nang with a Vietcong (VC) unit / The Marines at Phu Bai made their first contact on April 24 / They participated in company and platoon size patrols and ambushes against the VC in the Thua Thien–Hue Province till the end of June 1966 / On 31 January 1967, Operation Prairie II started / On 27 February 1967, L/3/4 and a tank platoon was involved in a battle near Hill 48 to save a recon team that ran into a PAVN Regiment / On the 28th other Marine companies including M/3/4 were brought in for ground operation / When the operation ended total casualties for both sides were put at 93 Marines killed, 483 wounded and the PAVN losses were put at 694 killed / Some of the other major Operations in 1967 were Operation Hickory (18 May to 28 May), Operation Kingfisher (16 July to 31 Oct) and Operation Kentucky near Con Thien in the western area of Leatherneck Square in the latter part of 1967 and in January 1968 / After 6 November 1968, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines were the last infantry battalion of the 3rd Marine Division left in South Vietnam / On 24 November 1969, the battalion sailed from Vietnam to Okinawa

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

The 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



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

The 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:** ZIZZO

MICHAEL J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Michael J. Zizzo honorably served in the United States Navy and assigned to the Navy Seabees

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Zizzo worked for the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) for 34 years / Zizzo was a member of the Navy Seabees of America for 24 years / Michael J. Zizzo passed away on 5 November 2024 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, 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 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:** ZMARZLY

ERWIN J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** TSGT

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

TIGER AWARD

AIR RESERVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (3)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (SMALL ARMS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2)

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

AIR FORCE GALLANT UNIT AWARD RIBBON (2)

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

ANTARTICA SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD RIBBON (2)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Technical Sergeant Erwin J. "Ed" Zmarzly honorably served in the United States Air Force / TSGT Erwin Zmarzly was assigned as a Personnel Specialist, Small Arms Instructor, Small Arms Repairman, Recruiter, and Combat Arms Training & Maintenance Craftsman / TSgt Zmarzly started the first Boy Scout Troop at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware / When transferred to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, Zmarzly served as a Commissioner for on-base Boy Scout Troop 18

Zmarzly served two years at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. as a Firing Range Instructor / During his military career, Erwin Zmarzly attended a number of schools, including Classification Specialist, Personnel Technician in 1059, Code of Conduct, Professional Investigation, Law Enforcement/Corrections, Federal Jail Operations, Non-Commission Officer Academy and Smith & Wesson School for Maintenance of Pistols and Automatics

After serving 11 years of active duty with the Air Force Erwin joined the Air Force Reserve and served as a Combat Arms Instructor for the Security Police, 107th Fighter Squadron, Niagara Falls, New York

Erwin J. "Ed" Zmarzly retired from the United States Air Force with over 37 years of combined service, active and reserve duty

**Base Assignments:**



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Sampson Air Force Base, Geneva, New York - Sampson AFB was established initially by the United States Navy as a Naval Training Station (USNTS Sampson) in 1942 and named after Rear Admiral William T. Sampson / At the end of World War II, the base was closed, but with the outbreak of the Korean War, the United States Air Force took interest in the former Naval Station for use as a Basic Military Training (BMT) Base / In February 1951, training started for 16,000 Air Force recruits of the Air Training Command (ATC) / The mission of Sampson AFB was to provide formal basic training for all male and female enlisted personnel not having sufficient previous military training; to establish and operate such assembly, processing and separation station as specifically directed; to provide a comprehensive counseling program for Basic Indoctrinated personnel in order that these airmen may be most effectively assigned in accordance with Air Force requirements; and to maintain training programs for accomplishing rehabilitation of garrison prisoner / With the end of the Korean War and cutbacks in the military budget afterwards, Air Training Command discontinued its basic training school at Sampson AFB on 1 July 1956 / Shortly thereafter, ATC discontinued Sampson's 3650th Military Training Wing / By the time it was closed, over 300,000 airmen received basic training at Sampson AFB in preparation for service in the Korean War, as well as service in USAFE, Far East Air Force, and other United States Air Force major commands both in the United States and around the world / Today, the majority of the former Air Force base is abandoned

Dover Air Force Base, Dover, New York - Dover Air Force Base is a United States Air Force (USAF) base under the operational control of Air Mobility Command (AMC) and is located 2 miles southeast of the city of Dover, Delaware / Construction began in March 1941 and the facility was opened on December 17, 1941 / It was converted to a U.S. Army Air Corps airfield just weeks after the 7 December 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor and renamed Dover Army Airbase on 8 April 1943 / With the establishment of the United States Air Force (USAF) on 18 September 1947, the facility was renamed Dover Air Force Base on 13 January 1948 / In 1944, the Air Technical Service Command chose Dover as a site to engineer, develop, and conduct classified air-launched rocket tests / The information collected during these experiments resulted in the effective deployment of air-to-surface rockets in both the European and Pacific combat theaters / On 1 April 1952, Dover was transferred to the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) and became home to 1607th Air Transport Wing (Heavy) / During the Vietnam War, more than 20,000 dead American soldiers were brought back to the United States via Dover / The Vietnam War dead account for over 90% of all the remains processed at Dover before 1988 / Following the September 11 attacks, the 436 Air Wing (AW) and 512 Air Wing (AW) became major participants in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

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

Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C - From its beginning, the installation has hosted elements of the Army Air Corps (predecessor to today's Air Force) and Navy aviation and support elements / Founded on 2 October 1917 as The Flying Field at Anacostia, it was the first military airfield near the United States Capitol / It was renamed Anacostia Experimental Flying Field in June 1918 / Bolling Field was opened 1 July 1918 and was named



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for Colonel Raynal C. Bolling, the first high-ranking air service officer killed in World War I / In the late 1940s, Bolling Field's property became Naval Air Station Anacostia and a new Air Force base, named Bolling Air Force Base, was constructed just to the south on 24 June 1948 / Bolling AFB has served as a research and testing ground for new aviation equipment and its first mission provided aerial defense of the capital / Throughout World War II, the installation served as a training and organizational base for personnel and units going overseas / It also served as the aerial gateway to the nation's capital / The Air Force's first headquarters was established at the installation, as Army Air Forces Headquarters in 1941 and, with the creation of the United States Air Force, Air Force Headquarters in 1947 / In 1962, fixed-wing aircraft operations at the air force and naval installations ceased, due to congested airspace around Washington National Airport on the opposite shore of the Potomac River / The Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) was created and activated at Bolling on 1 October 1985 with the mission of providing administrative support to Air Force members

Andrews Air Force Base, Morningside, Maryland - Andrews Field was named on 7 February 1945 in honor of Lt Gen. Frank Andrews and in 1946, Andrews was a sub-base of Bolling Field (3 January 1946 – 20 November 1946) / The Strategic Air Command headquarters transferred from Bolling Field to Andrews and the command of CONAF's Radar Bomb Scoring detachments (e.g., at Dallas Love Field) transferred to Andrews on 17 March 1946 / Andrews was transferred from the Army to the Air Force in 1947, and it was a Headquarters Command installation from 1947 through 1952 / Andrews Air Force Base was designated on 24 June 1948, and in June 1950, Andrews rapidly became involved in combat readiness training for B-25 Mitchell medium bomber crews / Combat readiness training and proficiency flying for military pilots assigned non-flying duties in the Washington area have remained two key elements in the local mission since the establishment of the base / HQ Air Research and Development Command (later, Air Force Systems Command) moved to Andrews from Baltimore, 24 June 1958 / With the construction of new facilities beginning in 1959, Andrews had become by early 1962 the primary USAF flight installation serving the Washington, DC, area / Andrews' air defense role was strengthened in the 1950s with the latest in fighter-interceptor hardware appearing on the flight line / F-94 Starfires, F-102 Delta Daggers and finally, F-106 Delta Darts formed the backbone of the three fighter interceptor squadrons which operated from the base until 1963 / In the years since 1959, Andrews' flight operations and importance have increased greatly / In 1961, the last of the Military Air Transport Service's flying units at Washington National Airport transferred to Andrews / Andrews has become firmly established as the main port of entry for foreign military and government officials en-route to Washington and the United States / In July 1961, the official presidential aircraft was stationed here, known as "Air Force One" when the president is on board / The base is widely known for serving as the home base of two Boeing VC-25 aircraft which have the call sign Air Force One while the President of the United States is on board / The Boeing C-32A, which is used by the Vice President of the United States, is also based at Andrews / During Operation Desert Storm, Andrews handled 16,540 patients in makeshift hospital facilities

## *Miscellaneous:*

Erwin Zmarzly attended Burgard High School in Buffalo where he studied to be an airplane mechanic / Erwin Zmarzly received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force on 14 September 1998 / After active duty, Zmarzly worked for the Erie County Sheriff's Department and in 1973, went to work for the West Seneca Police Department / Zmarzly was a Board Member of the West Seneca Senior Center / Ed Zmarzly was a long-time member of the West Seneca Auxiliary Police Department and held the rank of Sergeant / Zmarzly was a member of American Legion Post 735 and Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940 / Erwin J. "Ed" Zmarzly passed away on 21 August 2023 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Seneca, New York

The "Tiger" Award is named in honor of General Charles A. Horner, and recognizes the accomplishments an individual who demonstrates the highest degree of professionalism, leadership, integrity, dedication and courage in the performance of their duties and conduct of their lives

Air Force Gallant Unit Citation Ribbon is awarded to Air Force active duty, Reserve and Air National Guard units for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force on or after Sept. 11, 2001 / The Air Force Gallant Unit Citation Ribbon (GUC) award will normally be earned by units that have participated in single or successive actions covering relatively brief time spans

The Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal was established by the Secretary of the Air Force on 1 April 1964 and is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity during a four-year period while serving in an enlisted status in the U.S. Air Force Reserve

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 1 July 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

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 Antarctica Service Medal (ASM) was established by the United States Congress on July 7, 1960 / The Antarctica Service Medal is considered an award of the United States Armed Forces, issued in the name of the U.S. Department of Defense, and is authorized for wear on active duty uniforms / To qualify for the Antarctica Service Medal, personnel must train or serve ten days stationed on the Antarctic continent, or aboard vessels in Antarctic waters, defined as south of 60 degrees latitude / Flight crews performing transport missions to Antarctica qualify for one day of service for each flight mission performed within a 24-hour time period

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 Air Force Longevity Service Award is a military award established by Air Force General Order 60, on 25 November 1957 by General Thomas D. White, Air Force Chief of Staff / The award was primarily created as an Air



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

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces that has existed since 1950 / The medal recognizes service performed by members of the reserve components and is awarded to both officers and enlisted personnel / The medal is considered a successor award to the Naval Reserve Medal and the Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon, which were discontinued in 1958 and 1967, respectively

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

Technical Sergeant Erwin J. "Ed" Zmarzly was also awarded the following Military honors:

## AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON

The Air Force Training Ribbon is awarded to U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force service members on completion of initial accession training after 14 August 1974 / It is officially hallmarked by the U.S. Institute of Heraldry / If a member completes two accession training programs, such as BMT and OTS, a bronze oak leaf cluster is worn on the ribbon

## NEW YORK STATE NATIONAL GUARD LONG & FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARD RIBBON

The New York National Guard Long and Faithful Service Ribbon honors New York National Guard members who fulfill qualifying terms of service in an honorable manner and with an attendance rate of at least 90 percent for scheduled assemblies

## NEW YORK STATE RECRUITING MEDAL

The New York State Recruiting Medal Ribbon is officially hallmarked by the U.S. Institute of Heraldry / This ribbon is awarded for securing the initial appointment/enlistment of three new members for any unit of the organized militia by any member

(The U.S. Institute of Heraldry is a small office within the Department of the Army, responsible for furnishing heraldic services to the President of the United States and all federal government agencies / It is the only organization devoted to the science and art of military heraldry and official symbolism / The Institute of Heraldry produces the nation's highest military award for valor, the Medal of Honor / Its activities include research, design, development, and standardization of official symbolic items such as seals, decorations, medals, insignia,



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and flags)

**Name:** ZMUDA

JOSEPH

A.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph A. Zmuda honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph A. Zmuda passed away on 25 July 2024 at the age of 68 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZORNICK, JR.

HENRY

F.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Henry Francis Zornick, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Henry Francis Zornick, Jr. passed away on 7 July 2019 and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZYBCZYNSKI

DENNIS E.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Dennis E. Zybczynski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis Zybczynski was a graduate of Alfred State College / Zybczynski was a member of the Masons and a member of the Frank L. Gierlach Post in Sloan, New York / Dennis E. Zybczynski passed away on 23 February 2025 at the age of 75 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ZYDEL

RONALD W.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 153 RIDGE PARK

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Ronald Walter Zydel honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Ronald Zydel was deployed to Vietnam on 11 August 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Ronald Zydel was Killed In Action on 17 September 1968 from small arms fire during combat operations near Ben Cui Rubber Plantation, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On 17 September 1968, at 0202 hours, Company B reported that they were receiving mortar, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) and small arms fire from the north and east / At 0220 hours, Company B reported that it was receiving a heavy ground attack and at 0325 hours, RPG and automatic weapons fire was still being received / At 0422 hours, Company B reported that enemy contact had ceased / Air strikes were being employed in the area / At 0435 hours, Company B requested a dust-off / At 0452 hours, another enemy ground assault was launched against the perimeter / Enemy mortar fire was also received / The assault was short lived and at 0516 hours, dust-offs were again requested / By 0640 hours, the dust-offs were completed / Two soldiers from Company B, including Private First-Class Ronald Zydel, were killed in the contact and fourteen were wounded

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before



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entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of Leesville and 30 miles north of DeRidder in Beauregard Parish / Established in the 1940s, Ft. Polk began as a base for the Louisiana Maneuvers / The fort was re-named after New York soldier William Henry Johnson and encompasses about 198,000 acres / It served the 1st Armored Division in the 1950s, and became a basic training post during Vietnam War years of the 1960s and '70s / Fort Polk became Fort Johnson during a re-designation ceremony on June 13, 2023 in honor of Sgt. William Henry Johnson, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient

## *Miscellaneous:*

Ronald Zydel graduated from Seneca Vocational High School in 1965 and was employed by Western Electric Co., Inc. prior to entering the U.S. Army In March 1967 / Ronald Walter Zydel was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalbert's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Ronald Walter Zydel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43w, Line 24

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

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized)—nicknamed the "Red Diamond", or the "Red Devils", was an infantry division of the United States Army that served in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, and with NATO and the U.S. Army III Corps / The 5th Division was organized in December 1917 from Regular Army troops as a part of the program for the expansion of the armed forces for service in World War I / In 1968 the division



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was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, as a mechanized formation / 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to South Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to replace a U.S. Marine Corps unit / The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971 defending the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in northern Quảng Trị Province / It was inactivated on 24 November 1992 and reflagged as the 2nd Armored Division

The 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

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