



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ANDERSEN**
MARTIN

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address: 27 CLEVELAND DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MAJ

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH AIR FORCE, 35TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING, 13TH BOMB SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Major Martin Weigner Andersen honorably served in the United States Air Force / Major Martin Andersen was deployed to Vietnam as a Navigator / Major Martin Andersen was Killed in Action on 19 August 1967 when his aircraft crashed through hostile action in the Hua Nghia Province, South Vietnam

On August 19, 1967, a B-57B Canberra (#52-1550), with Major Secanti as Pilot and Major Martin Andersen as Navigator, was conducting a strike on a storage area five miles west of Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province when it was hit by ground fire / The Canberra crashed, killing pilot MAJ Richard M. Secanti and navigator MAJ Martin W. Andersen / Initially listed as Missing in Action, their remains were recovered and repatriated

Major Martin Andersen was a 15-year veteran of the U. S. Air Force and was a former Instructor at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado / Major Andersen taught mathematics and aeronautics at the Academy

Base Assignments:

Air Force Academy, Colorado - The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) is a United States service academy in Air Force Academy, Colorado, immediately north of Colorado Springs / It educates cadets for service in the officer corps of the United States Air Force and United States Space Force / It is the youngest of the five service academies, having graduated its first class in 1959, but is the third in seniority / Graduates of the academy's four-year program receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force or U.S. Space Force



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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Martin Weigner Andersen was 37 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at the Lancaster Rural Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Martin Weigner Andersen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25e, Line 15

The Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea) (7 AF) is a Numbered Air Force of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea / The command's mission is to plan and direct air component operations in the Republic of Korea and in the Northwest Pacific / Established on 19 October 1940 as the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, the 7 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat unit in the Pacific Theater of World War II, providing air defense of the Hawaiian Islands and engaging in combat operations primarily in the Central Pacific AOR / It was assigned units engaging enemy forces in the Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Mariana Islands, and in the last major battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of Okinawa / On 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam / From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force / In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations / The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / The Siege of Khe Sanh ("Operation Niagara") involved significant efforts by Seventh Air Force / More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day / At night, Douglas AC-47 Spooky gunships kept up fire against enemy troops / 7th AF oversaw the ongoing US air campaigns in Cambodia and Laos until the prohibition on offensive operations came into effect on 14 August 1973

The 35th Fighter Wing is an air combat unit of the United States Air Force and the host unit at Misawa Air Base, Japan / The wing is part of Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)'s Fifth Air Force / The wing was first activated in August 1948 at Johnson Air Base, Japan when PACAF implemented the wing base organization / It participated in the Korean War and later served in the air defense of Japan until inactivating in 1957 / In 1966, the wing was again activated and served in combat in the Vietnam War until inactivating in 1972 with the withdrawal of US forces from Southeast Asia / It was soon reactivated at George Air Force Base, California, where it served until inactivating in 1992 / It was activated the following year in Iceland as an air defense unit. With the drawdown of US forces in Iceland, the 35th Wing was inactivated on 1 October 1994 at Keflavik, but redesignated, reassigned, and reactivated as the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base the same day / The mission of the 35th Wing is to project power throughout the Pacific theater and execute worldwide deployments

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

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created on May 11, 1942



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight / The Air Medal was awarded retroactive to September 8, 1939, to anyone who distinguishes himself by meritorious achievement while serving with the Armed Forces in aerial flight

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

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

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

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

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



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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ANDERSON**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

JOHN

A.

Address: 415 MCKINLEY DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

HHC COMPANY, COMMUNICATIONS PLATOON, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY, 25TH INF DIV,
USARV

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John Austin Anderson honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Anderson was deployed to Vietnam on 4 December 1967 as a Field Wireman in Vietnam / SP4 John Austin Anderson was Killed In Action on 13 May 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat action in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On the evening of 13 May 1968, the communication relay complex operating on Nui Ba Den (Black Virgin Mountain) in Tay Ninh Province was attacked by enemy sappers / Following a barrage of mortar fire on the mountain top compound, the enemy breached the perimeter and proceed to destroy the communication relay facilities with satchel charges / The troops managed to force the enemy into retreat, suffering nineteen men killed in the action / One of the casualties, first reported as missing in action was SP4 Anderson who was killed as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds

John Austin Anderson was the 131st Erie County resident to be killed in the Vietnam War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

John Anderson was a native of Thorold, Ontario, Canada / John Anderson lived in Fort Erie until moving to the United States and was a former Buffalo Evening News carrier before he enlisted in the Army in October 1966 / John Austin Anderson was 21 years old at the time of his death and is interred at Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

John Austin Anderson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 59e, Line 16

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry (4/9) disembarked at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 29 April 1965 / Within days of landing, the 4/9 Infantry saw combat action in Cu Chi, Vietnam / Battalion-size operations conducted by the 4/9 Infantry included Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Heleman, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry / The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry served in Vietnam for four years and six months

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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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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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ANDREWS**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

E.

Address: 581 MASTEN AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

THE NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Edward Andrews honorably served in the United States Army / PFC James Andrews was deployed to Vietnam on 18 June 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC James Andrews was Killed In Action on 7 July 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

James Andrews attended East High School / James Edward Andrews was 21 years of age at his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

James Edward Andrews is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 54w, Line 40

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 case posthumously

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BATEMAN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

NEIL

E.

Address: 46 APPLEWOOD ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

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:

Private First-Class Neil Ellis Bateman was deployed to Vietnam on 8 March 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Neil Bateman was Killed In Action on 15 May 1967 from enemy small gunfire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

PFC Neil Bateman was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Bronze Star Medal Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Neil Bateman graduated from Maryvale Senior High School in 1966 where he excelled in Football and Wrestling / Bateman sang in the choir of St. Stephens Church, Amherst and served as President of its Senior High Fellowship prior to enlisting in the United States Army in August 1966 / Neil Ellis Bateman was 20 years old when he was Killed In Action and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Neil Ellis Bateman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 125



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

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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 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division and has also been deployed in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965 / In October 1968 the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Private First-Class Neil Ellis Bateman was also awarded:

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BEALE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

ROBERT

B.

Address: 28 IDLEWOOD DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MAG 12, VMA 214

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL (5)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Robert Boughton Beale honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Captain Robert Beale was deployed to Vietnam as a Jet Fighter Pilot and flew both the Marine A-4C Skyhawk and Phantom Jet Fighters for Marine Attack Squadron 214 (Black Sheep) / Captain Beale was Killed In Action on 17 March 1967 when his A-4C aircraft was hit by hostile enemy fire while attacking an enemy sampan / Captain Beale crashed into the China Sea five miles off the shore from Tam Ky, Quang Nam Province and died of injuries to the body

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Beale graduated from Orchard Park Central High School in 1967 / Beale was an Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop #503 and was a member of the National Honor Society / Prior to entering military serve, Beale worked at Arthur's Hardware in Orchard Park / Robert Beale attended and graduated from Hobart College, Geneva in 1961 / Prior to entering the Marine Corp, Robert Beale was employed by the Boeing Aircraft Corporation in Seattle, Washington / Robert Boughton Beale was 28 years old at the time of his passing and is interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Robert Boughton Beale is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 16e, Line 99

Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) is an active air group of the United States Marine Corps, tasked with providing fighter and assault support aircraft / It is currently part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW), itself an integral part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and based at MCAS Iwakuni in Japan / The mission of Marine Aircraft Group 12, as the tactical air arm of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, is to conduct air reconnaissance, electronic warfare, antiair warfare, offensive air support, control of aircraft and missiles, and assault support from advanced bases, expeditionary bases or the sea base supported by organic aviation logistics and aviation ground support logistics as required by III MEF and United States Pacific Command and be prepared to conduct such support and engagement operations as may be directed / In May 1965, MAG-12 deployed to Chu Lai, Vietnam, to support Marine infantry and other allied forces in their engagements against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army units / The Group participated in many large operations, including the recapture of Hue City and the relief of besieged units at Khe Sanh / Two more Navy Unit Citations were received as a result of the Group's contribution to the Vietnam War effort / After almost 5 years of combat, MAG-12 was withdrawn from the Republic of Vietnam in February 1970, and reestablished at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan / In May 1972, MAG-12 again deployed to Vietnam and conducted combat operations from Bien Hoa Air Base until finally withdrawing from the war on 29 January 1973 where they were the last American combat aviation unit still in country / MAG-12 then returned to MCAS Iwakuni, where it remains today

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

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

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BECKWITH**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WOODLAWN

RICHARD

E.

Address: 11 SEVENTH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 26TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, 42ND POSTAL UNIT

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Richard Earl "Dick" Beckwith honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Richard Beckwith was deployed to Vietnam on 13 August 1967 as a Postal Clerk / SGT Beckwith was Killed In Action on 29 February 1968 from enemy mortar during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Sergeant Beckwith was on his second tour of duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Beckwith graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1959 / Beckwith worked for Bethlehem Steel Corp, Lackawanna Plant, prior to being drafted in September 1966 / Richard Earl "Dick" Beckwith was 26 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Richard Earl Beckwith is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42e, Line 2

The 1st Logistical Command was constituted 24 August 1950 in the Regular Army / The Command was reorganized and redesignated 2 July 1962 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Logistical



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Command / No unit was more critical to the buildup of American forces in Vietnam than the 1st Logistical Command / Prior to 1965, the U.S. Army in Vietnam was supplied by the Army's Pacific Command through the small U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, which served under the 9th Logistical Command in Okinawa / As a result, the 1st Logistical Command, which had first been activated during the Korean War, was deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Saigon on 1 April 1965 / In mid-1965, the 1st Logistical Command, processed 70,000 tons of incoming material per month / In 1966, 700,000 tons a month was processed, not counting critical items brought in by air / The 1st Logistical Command was redeployed to Fort Hood on 7 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 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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BELL

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

LEONARD

J.

Address: 21 NORTH PEARL STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Leonard Jonathen Bell honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Leonard Bell was deployed to Vietnam on 12 April 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Leonard Bell was Killed In Action on 11 May 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leonard Bell was a graduate of the Park School, Buffalo and attended Canisius College prior to being drafted into the Army in February 1967 / Leonard Jonathen Bell was 20 years old at the time of his death and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Leonard Jonathen Bell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 58e, Line 19

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BERGER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

DONALD

J.

Address: 1450

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 163

MARINE AIR BASE SQUADRON 13 (MABS-13), MAG-13, 1ST MARINE AIR WING, FMFPAC

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 13

Medals / Citations:

NAVY CROSS

AIR MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Donald Joseph Berger honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Captain Donald Berger was deployed to Vietnam 27 March 1969 as a Pilot / CAPT Donald Berger died on 28 December 1969 from a non-hostile aircraft crash in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Captain Donald Berger was a Marine pilot serving his third tour in Vietnam / On 28 December 1969, during a flight to checkout the Chu Lai Air Base navigational equipment, the squadron's C-117D aircraft with Captain Berger onboard and piloted by LtCol Douglas Snead, crashed into the side of a mountain about 10 miles southwest of Chu Lai, in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam / All on board died instantly / First reported as missing, the remains of Captain Donald Berger as well as those of Donald Joseph Snead, William Lloyd Bunch, Ronald Francis Liscum and Douglas Lee Snead were recovered on 31 December 1969

Donald Berger joined the Marine Corps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1951 after graduating from Officer Training School in Pensacola, Florida / Berger was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1967 / Berger left the Marine Corps in 1958 to return to Syracuse University and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Forestry / Captain Berger rejoined the Marine Corps and was assigned to Thailand / His second tour was in Vietnam from 1965 - 1966 / Berger started his third tour of Vietnam in March 1967



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Captain Donald Berger was awarded the Navy Cross in 1966 for extraordinary heroism while serving with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 / Captain Berger rescued stranded Green Berets and South Vietnamese soldiers at As Hau and transported them to a safety zone / He then made a "controlled crash" landing when his helicopter was disabled by enemy gunfire and later directed his crew and ground personnel in fighting off enemy troops and returning safely to American lines

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Berger was a 1949 graduate of Amherst Central High School and attended Syracuse University from 1949 - 1951, later returning to college to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Forestry / Donald Joseph Berger was 38 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga

Donald Joseph Berger is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington .DC. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 101

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 (VMM-163) is a United States Marine Corps helicopter squadron consisting of MV-22 Osprey transport tiltrotors / The squadron, known as "Evil Eyes", is based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California and falls under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW) / The mission of VMM-163 is to provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations / Be prepared for short-notice, worldwide deployment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations / In late July 1962, HMM-163 deployed to Sóc Trăng Airfield, South Vietnam / During their time in South Vietnam, VMM-163 crews had flown a total of 10,869 hours, 15,200 sorties and had lifted over 25,216 combat assault troops and 59,024 other passengers

Marine Aircraft Group 13 (MAG-13) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma that is currently composed of one McDonnell Douglas AV-8B Harrier II squadron, three Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II squadrons, an unmanned aerial vehicle squadron, a maintenance and logistics squadron, and a wing support squadron / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-13 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force commanders

The Navy Cross is the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps' second-highest military decoration awarded for sailors and marines who distinguish themselves for extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force / The medal is equivalent to the Army's Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force and Space Force's Air Force Cross, and the Coast Guard Cross /The Navy Cross may be awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces while serving with the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard (when a part of the Department of the Navy) who distinguishes themselves in action by extraordinary heroism not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

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United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge / Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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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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Navy personnel who have been attached to a Fleet Marine Force Unit in active combat with an armed enemy beginning with World War II are authorized to wear a 1/8 inch bronze miniature Marine Corps emblem centered



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

on the suspension ribbon of the World War II Area Campaign Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BIALKOWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

J.

Address: 46 EASTWOOD DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: CN

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 11 (NMCB11)

3RD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION (NC) BRIGADE (BDE), UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM
(USNAVFORV)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Constructionman John Joseph Bialkowski honorably served in the United States Navy / CN John Bialkowski served with the Seabees and was deployed to Vietnam in April 1967 as an Electrician / Seabee CN John L. Bialkowski was Killed in Action on 24 June 1967 from enemy fire, causing his truck to crash, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The battalion of CN John Bialkowski was based at Dong Ha which was about ten miles from the DMZ and North Vietnam where his battalion was shelled many times with artillery and rockets / On 24 June 1967, CN John Bialkowski was part of a four-man trash truck detail dumping trash at Don Ha Combat Base dump when he was run over by a dump truck, reportedly during enemy shelling of the base / He was fatally injured in the incident

Bialkowski trained as a Construction Electrician (Power Lineman).

Base Assignments:

Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois - Home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Davisville, Rhode Island - was formerly the home of the Davisville Naval Construction Battalion Center, which housed the United States Navy's SeaBees / The Navy acquired the property in 1939 and built Naval Air Station Quonset Point / In 1942, adjoining properties were developed for training Seabees, including the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Davisville / After World War II, the Naval Air Station remained in operation, but the NCBC was inactive until 1951, when the site was designated Headquarters, NCBC / The Naval Air Station was decommissioned in 1974.

Miscellaneous:

John Bialkowski was a graduate of West Seneca Senior High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute before joining the Navy in December 1965 / John Joseph Bialkowski was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

John Joseph Bialkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 56

A Seabee is a member of the United States Naval Construction Forces (NCF) / The word "Seabee" comes from the initials "CB", which in turn comes from the term "Construction Battalion" / The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and accomplishing countless other construction projects in a wide variety of military theaters dating back to World War II

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

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The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BIGELOW**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LAKEVIEW

LAWRENCE

C.

Address: 293 EAST LANE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Lawrence Carol Bigelow honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Lawrence Bigelow was deployed to Vietnam on 8 October 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Lawrence Bigelow was killed on 5 April 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

"A" Company, 2nd Bn, 7th Cavalry, lost seven men on 5 April 1970: 1LT John W. Rohr, New Bedford, MA; SSG Eugene P. Gee, Oxford, NC; SGT Lawrence C. Bigelow, Lake View, NY; SGT David R. Borzych, Pulaski, WI; CPL Charles M. Cobb, Dallas, TX; CPL Calvin J. Layton, Greenville, MS; CPL Steven M. Torrey, Guttenberg, IA / The body of SP4 Lawrence Bigelow body was recovered / SP4 Lawrence Bigelow received a posthumous promotion to Sergeant

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence Bigelow was a 1966 graduate of Frontier Central High School / Bigelow completed his first year at State University of Buffalo in 1967 / Lawrence Bigelow was employed by Bethlehem Steel before entering the U.S. Army in 1967 / Lawrence Carol Bigelow was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Derby, New York

Lawrence Carol Bigelow is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12w, Line 95

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

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOBOWSKI, JR.**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAN

E.

Address: 80 WOLTZ AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY E, 3RD BATTALION, 60TH INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, USAV

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Jan Bobowski was deployed to Vietnam in February 1968 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / During an engagement with enemy forces on 7 April 1968 in the vicinity of Dong Tam in Kien Hoa Province, Sergeant Bobowski was killed in action by hostile rifle fire / SGT Bobowski was declared missing in action until recovered on 22 April 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jan Bobowski was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School and attended Canisius College before being inducted into the U.S. Army in December 1966 / Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalberts Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Jan Edward Bobowski, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48e, Line 39

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The U.S. 60th Infantry Regiment is a regimental unit in the United States Army constituted 15 May 1917 / Its 2nd and 3rd Battalion conduct Basic Combat Training / Participating in three wars on three continents, the 60th has played a conspicuous role in the achievements of 5th Division in World War I and 9th Infantry Division in World War II and Vietnam / After service as the 2nd Battle Group, 60th Infantry from 1958 to 1962, three battalions (2/60, 3/60, and 5/60 Mechanized) were activated at Fort Riley, Kansas, and assigned to the 9th Infantry Division for its deployment to the Republic of Vietnam in December 1966 / The 9th Division was the only major U.S. combat unit to conduct operations in the Mekong Delta / On 13 September 1968, the 5th/60th Mech was "swapped" with the 1st/16th of the 1st Infantry Division / From then until August 1970, the 5th/60th operated as a "straight leg" infantry unit / The battalions of the 60th Infantry participated in both Riverine operations and "jitterbug tactics" which featured split-second timing of airmobile insertions in close proximity to enemy units / Beginning with the 3rd Brigade in July 1969, the 9th Infantry Division was the first US Division to be withdrawn from Vietnam / From the Summer of 1969 through the Fall of 1970, units of the 3rd Brigade remained in the Mekong Delta; operating under the command of the 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi / The Division returned to Ft. Lewis, Washington in 1970, where its battalions were inactivated

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOCHNEWETCH II**
SHERMAN

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant Sherman Bochnewetch II honorably served in the United States Army / 1LT Sherman Bochnewetch was deployed to Vietnam in December 1968 as an Infantry Unit Commander / 1LT Sherman Bochnewetch was Killed In Action on 28 February 1970 when a land mine exploded while he was leading an infantry platoon on a combat mission in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam

1LT Sherman Bochnewetch was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, posthumously

First Lieutenant Sherman (Skip) Bochnewetch II graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was in the top ten of his class

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Sherman Bochnewetch graduated from Orchard Park High School in 1962, where he played football and ran track / Bochnewetch obtained the rank of Eagle Scout with Explorer Post #268 / Sherman Bochnewetch attended Florida State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1967 / Sherman (Skip) Bochnewetch II was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Sherman Bochnewetch II is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 66

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

The 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1940, in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in the Vietnam War), briefly in 1991–1992 at Fort Lewis, and from 2007 as an active army training formation at Fort Moore / The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War / Nicknamed "the Redcatchers", the unit was hastily moved to Song Be, Vietnam on 10 December 1966 to provide an increased U.S. presence in the III Corps Tactical Zone and remained there until its return to Fort Benning on 11 October 1970 / The brigade was conducting Operation Uniontown in Dong Nai Province when the 1968 Tet Offensive began / It immediately began a defense of U.S. II Field Force headquarters at Long Binh Post against attacks by the VC 275th Regiment / One battalion was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong command post at the Phu Tho racetrack inside Saigon, then engaged in house-to-house fighting in Cholon / During 1969, the 199th was responsible for the security of the region north and east of the capital, and in 1970 moved into the "Iron Triangle" when other units participated in the Cambodian Incursion / The brigade was deactivated in 1970 until it was reactivated in 1991 and 2006

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOJANEK**
ROBERT A.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

Address: 293 PARAMOUNT PARKWAY

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

HHC, 14TH AVIATION BATTALION, 16TH AVIATION GROUP, AMERICAL DIVISION, USARV.

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Arthur Bojanek honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Bojanek was deployed to Vietnam on 9 July 1970 as a Medical Laboratory Specialist / SP4 Robert Bojanek was Killed In Action on 30 November 1970 from enemy rocket rounds during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 30 November 1970, the 16th Aviation Group Medical Dispensary at the Chu Lai Military Complex in Qunang Tin Province was hit by an enemy 122mm Rocket inflicting multiple casualties / SP4 Robert Bojanek was Killed In Action as a result of the explosion / Six other soldiers were killed having sustained injuries

Base Assignments:

Ft. Lewis, Washington - Fort Lewis is a United States Army base located 9.1 miles south-southwest of Tacoma, Washington / Fort Lewis was originally established in 1917 and was merged with McChord Air Force Base on 1 February 2010, to form Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) / Fort Lewis, named after Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was one of the largest and most modern military reservations in the United States, consisting of 87,000 acres / From 1942 to 1943, 42 Japanese, German, and Italian Americans were held at Fort Lewis as part of the government's "enemy alien" internment program during World War II / The Japanese and Italian internees were transferred to Fort Missoula and the Germans to Fort Lincoln, and the temporary detention facility closed on 30 March 1943 / Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Fort Lewis) is the home of much of the 2nd Infantry Division, along with Headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Command, and the 1st Special Forces Group / The mission of the base is to provide support to mission commanders and the joint base community, to serve as an enabler to the soldiers as they train and project America's combat power

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

Miscellaneous:

Robert Bojanek was a graduate of St Joseph's College Institute and Canisius College / Prior to entering the US Army in May of 1968, Bojanek worked as a Lab Technician for the Grand Island Biological Company / Robert Arthur Bojanek was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Robert Arthur Bojanek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06w, Line 97

Medical Laboratory Specialists are integral members of the medical laboratory technician team / They conduct tests on the tissue, blood, and bodily fluids of patients / In addition to providing blood support for various levels of care, medical laboratory specialists run laboratory operations and perform blood product drives with service members in sometimes austere deployed environments

The 14th Aviation Battalion was constituted on 2 Sept 1964, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion and was activated on 3 Sept 1964, at Ft Benning, Georgia / The Battalion Headquarters arrived in Saigon, RVN on 14 Oct 1964, and was assigned to the United States Army Support Command Vietnam / On 21 Oct 1964, Headquarters, 14th Aviation Battalion moved from Saigon to Nha Trang and the Battalion was declared operational on 17 Nov 1964 / The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion engaged the enemy from Nha Trang to Khe Sanh and into the Kingdom of Laos for over seven years / One hundred and fifty four soldiers were Killed In Action / The last remnants of the 14th Aviation Battalion were deployed back to the new home of the 14th Aviation Battalion, Ft Sill, Oklahoma, on 25 October 1971

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Combat Medical Badge (CMB) is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945 / Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB / According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy; strict adherence to this requirement and its interpretation (e.g., distant mortar rounds vs. direct small arms fire) will vary by unit

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BORCZYNSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

FREDERICK

E.

Address: 78 CARL STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

"D" CO, 6TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Frederick Earl Borczynski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Frederick Borczynski was deployed to Vietnam on 03 April 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Sergeant Frederick Borczynski was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile mortar fire while defending his position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Along with SGT Frederick Borczynski, 5 other soldiers died from hostile mortar fire: SP4 Robert Vinson Bollman, SGT Danny Carlton Hayes, SGT James Randall Pruett, PFC Steven Paul Rance and SSG Richard Barry Trotter

Two brothers of Sergeant Frederick Borczynski, James and Wayne Borczynski, both served in the United States Army / Another brother, John Borczynski, served in the United States Marine Corps / James Borczynski also served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frederick Borczynski was a graduate of Burgard Vocational High School / Borczynski was an employee of Tops Markets, before being drafted into the U.S. Army in April 1966 / Frederick Earl Borczynski was 21 years old at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Frederick Earl Borczynsk is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42w, Line 15

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

The 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

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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOROWICZ**
KENNETH P.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 457 SWEET AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Kenneth P. Borowicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Kenneth Borowicz was deployed to Vietnam on 10 April 1967 as a Rifleman / In the early morning hours of 2 February 1968, elements of Company "D" came under heavy attack at the Cam Lo District Headquarters in Quang Tri Province / The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) launched a ground attack using supporting arms against the Marines / Reaction units from Company "A" were immediately dispatched to assist their comrades battling a superior enemy force / The fighting continued into the afternoon with the Battalion suffering five men killed in action and thirteen wounded requiring evacuation by the time it subsided / Corporal Kenneth Borowicz was Killed In Action as a result of a hostile gunshot wound to his chest

Prior to his deployment to Vietnam, Corporal Kenneth Borowicz served three years as a Security Guard at the Brooklyn Naval Yard

02 February 1968

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / 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

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Borowicz was a graduate of St. Adalbert's School and Burgard Vocational High School in 1964 / Kenneth P. Borowicz was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Kenneth P. Borowicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 36e, Line 66

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

The 3rd 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

1st Battalion, 4th Marines (1/4) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / They fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was originally activated in April 1911 as the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment / The battalion first saw combat in November 1916 in the Dominican Republic / The outbreak of World War II found the battalion serving as part of the U.S. Forces defending the Philippines / In the spring of 1965 the battalion deployed to combat in South Vietnam / From 1965 to 1969 the battalion engaged in numerous conventional and counter-insurgency operations in the I Corps / Some of the major operations that 1/4 was involved in were Operation Prairie, Operation Beacon Hill, Operation Prairie IV, Operation Deckhouse IV, Operation Kentucky, Operation Purple Martin and Operation Napoleon/Saline would be fought from places such as the Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Con Thien and Ca Lu Combat Base / In November 1969 the battalion was redeployed to Okinawa and would also serve off the coast of Vietnam / The battalion participated in the rescue of the SS Mayaguez in May 1975

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The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BORYSZEWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

STEPHEN

J.

Address: 51 TINDLE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORP.

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

H CO, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST FIRST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Stephen J. Boryszewski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Stephen Boryszewski was deployed to Vietnam on 10 November 1968 as a Rifleman / LCpl Boryszewski was Killed in Action on 10 April 1969 from fragmentation wounds suffered when an enemy land mine exploded in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training

Miscellaneous:

Stephen Boryszewski was a 1967 graduate of South Park High School and worked for the National Aniline Division of Allied Chemical Corporation / Boryszewski enlisted into the Marine Corps in May 1968 / Stephen J. Boryszewski was 19 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Stephen J. Boryszewski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27w, Line 47

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOSSMAN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PETER

R.

Address: 84 BRIANWOOD DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HM3

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

USNAVFORV, HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON 363, MARINE AIR GROUP 16

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

AVIATOR BADGE NAVY

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Hospitalman Third-Class Peter Robert Bossman honorably served in the United States Navy / HM Peter Bossman was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman / HM3 Peter Bossman was declared Missing in Action on 25 September 1966 when the helicopter he was onboard was hit by enemy groundfire and crashed in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 25 September 1966 a UH-34D (BuNo 148776) belonging to HMM-161 launched on a night medical evacuation mission in support of a Marine unit that had suffered casualties and was engaged in heavy combat along Highway 9 in the jungle covered mountains during Operation Prairie / The weather was good with a very bright full moon / Four Marine aircrewmembers from HMM-161 and a Navy Corpsman (HM3 Peter Bossman) assigned to HMM-265 were aboard the aircraft / HM3 Bossman's UH-34 helicopter was hit in flight by an artillery shell, broke up, and crashed in flames / The incident was witnessed by crewmen in the escorting gunships from a distance of about 75 yards / Ground troops were able to reach the aircraft wreckage and were able to recover two badly burned bodies but no other remains / Although assault, medevac, and gunship helicopters regularly flew in areas being subjected to friendly artillery fire, this incident is the only documented case of a Marine helicopter being struck in flight by friendly fire / The crew of the UH34 was listed as killed, body not recovered including HM3 Peter Bossman who is listed as Missing In Action

Highway 9 was a primary east-west road that ran from the South Vietnamese-Laos border nearly to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

coastline where it intersected Highway 1, the primary north-south road that paralleled the coastline nearly the entire length of Vietnam / Highway 9 became a major part of the North Vietnamese infiltration route once they crossed into South Vietnam from the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail

Base Assignments:

Great Lakes Training Center - home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy

Miscellaneous:

Peter Bossman graduated from the West Seneca Central High School in 1962 and enlisted in the Navy in 1963 / Peter Robert Bossman was 21 years of age at the time of his passing

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Bossman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Peter Robert Bossman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 12

Hospitalmen (HM) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

One of the earliest helicopters employed in Southeast Asia, and the primary Marine Corps helicopter used during the early years of the war, was the Sikorsky UH34D Seahorse / This aircraft was already quite old when they arrived in the battle zone, however, both the US and South Vietnamese military found them to be extremely effective throughout the war

SNAVFORV (United States Naval Forces Vietnam) / During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Navy deployed various units to support operations in the region / One such unit was Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 363 (HM-363), which was part of Marine Air Group 16 / Their mission was to conduct mine countermeasures using helicopters, specifically the MH-53E Sea Dragon / These helicopters were designed to detect and neutralize naval mines, ensuring safe passage for ships and other naval vessels

Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-16 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force commanders / Marine Helicopter Transport Group 16 (MAG(HR)-16) was commissioned on 1 March 1952 at Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California / MAG-16 was the first helicopter group established in the Marine Corps

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

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

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

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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 /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOSWELL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DAVID

H.

Address: 52 SWINBURNE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HN

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Hospitalman David Henry Boswell honorably served in the United States Navy / HN David Boswell was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman / HN David Boswell was Killed In Action on 6 March 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

HN David Boswell served in Vietnam with Combined Action Platoon Bravo-1 (CAP Bravo-1), 2nd Combined Action Group, Combined Action Program, Third Marine Amphibious Force / Hospitalman Boswell was killed while pulling wounded soldiers from the field

HN David Boswell was previously commended by his commanding officer for his role in treating 11 marines injured in a truck accident

Hospitalman Boswell joined the Navy Reserve in 1964 and went on active duty in April 1966 / HN Boswell was originally assigned to the boiler room on a destroyer and decided to switch to Hospitalman (Corpsman)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

David Boswell was a graduate of the Boys Vocational High School and School Number 4 / David Henry Boswell was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Henry Boswell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43e, Line 14

Hospitalmen (HN) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

2nd Civil Affairs Group (2nd CAG) is a civil affairs (CA) unit of the United States Marine Corps / It is based at Naval Support Facility Anacostia, Washington, D.C., and is part of the Force Headquarters Group of the Marine Forces Reserve / The unit was deactivated in June 2019 and turned into Marine Corps Advisor Company (MCAC) Alpha and Marine Corps Advisor Company Bravo

III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It is forward-deployed and able to rapidly conduct operations across the spectrum from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) to amphibious assault and high-intensity combat / The III Marine Amphibious Force's (MAF) area of operations was in the northern I Corps Tactical Zone in Vietnam / III MAF participated in the Vietnam War from May 1965 – April 1971 operating from Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai / The III Marine Amphibious Force maintains a forward presence in Japan and Asia to support the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan (1960) and other alliance relationships of the United States / III MEF also conducts combined operations and training throughout the region in support of the National Security Strategy for Theater Security Cooperation

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRESE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BLASDELL

ANTHONY

A.

Address: 348 MARLOWE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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 Anthony Arthur Brese honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Anthony Brese was deployed to Vietnam on 9 March 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Brese died from non-hostile wounds on 26 December 1970 while serving on Firebase Bastogne (also known as Firebase Phu Xuan) in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

On 24 December 1970, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, moved off of Firebase (FSB) Bastogne for FSB Security in preparation for the 1970 Christmas cease fire / The battalion day report for 24 December shows that Bravo Company had also redeployed off the FSB to the southeast of Alpha Company / The relocation took place late in the day and the company quickly set up their night defense targets (Delta Tangos) coordinates before the 6:00 PM start of the 24 hour cease fire / At approximately 5:15 PM, a single friendly round of high explosive crashed into A Company's 2nd Platoon position where 19 soldiers had set up their night defensive position / Nine were killed and at least nine others were severely wounded / Medivacs were called in and the wounded were taken to the 85th Evacuation Hospital at Phu Bai / Three more soldiers would later succumb to their wounds, making the total 12 killed / Only one soldier was spared physical injury from the shrapnel, protected by a tree stump he was sitting behind when the round hit / The nine soldiers killed in the immediate aftermath of the blast were SP4 Paul J. D'Amato Jr., SP4 Gregory W. Felker, SP4 Larry Heen, CPL Calvin D. Mack, SP4 Thomas G. Noble, SGT Michael R. Nugent, CPL Vern E. Odom, CPL Wesley L. Phillips, and SP4 Steve Pohancek / The three other lost members of the platoon were SP4 Anthony A. Brese (died on



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

December 26th), CPL Kenneth W. Griffin (died on the 28th), and CPL Jaime Laboy (died January 8, 1971)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony Brese graduated from St. Francis Parochial School in Hamburg / Anthony Brese attended Buffalo State University and Canisius College before being drafted / Anthony Arthur Brese was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Anthony Arthur Brese is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 8

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 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry were deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965, where they were joined by the rest of the division in late 1967 / In October 1968, the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson / The 327th Infantry Regiment has also been deployed in the Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRIGGS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: NORTH COLLINS

DAVID I.

Address: BRANT ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David Ivan Briggs honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Briggs was deployed to Vietnam on 20 May 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 David Briggs was Killed In Action on 23 November 1968 by enemy small arms fire while engaged with hostile forces in Bo Loi Woods, Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

David Ivan Briggs was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Spirit Cemetery, North Collins, New York

David Ivan Briggs is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 38w, Line 40

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 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry (4/9) disembarked at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 29 April 1965 / Within days of landing, the 4/9 Infantry saw combat action in Cu Chi, Vietnam / Battalion-size operations conducted by the 4/9 Infantry included Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Helemano, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry / The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry served in Vietnam for four years and six months

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROPHY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

MARTIN

E.

Address: 302 ROESCH AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 41ST INFANTRY PLATOON SCOUT DOG

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Martin Earl Brophy honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Martin Brophy was deployed to Vietnam in December 1967 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SP4 Martin Brophy was Killed In Action on 5 May 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile action in Binh Duong province, South Vietnam

On 5 May 1968, the Viet Cong were in the second day of a new nation-wide offensive in which they shelled more than 120 targets across Vietnam / One of the locations that was hit was the base camp for the 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Enemy rockets killed six U.S. personnel, some while they were sleeping / The lost Americans at Lai Khe included dog handlers SP4 Martin E. Brophy and SSGT Juan P. Martinez, intelligence specialist SSGT Richard A. Brown, artilleryman SP4 William E. Shaffer, clerk-typist SP5 Howard J. Spear, and infantryman PFC Louis L. Speer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Martin Brophy was born in Syracuse, New York / Brophy worked at the Chevrolet River Road Plant prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army / Martin Earl Brophy was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Martin Earl Brophy is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 55e, Line 4

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three 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 41st Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was one of two Scout Dog platoons attached to the First Infantry 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ANDREW

T.

Address: 129 DELAVAN AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (MAF), 3RD CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP 3 3 5

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private Andrew Thomas Brown honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Andrew Brown was deployed to Vietnam on 8 July 1968 as a Mortarman / PVT Andrew Brown was Killed In Action on 16 September 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations action in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

The brother of Andrew Brown, Specialist Fifth-Class William Brown, also served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Andrew Brown moved to Buffalo in 1955 and graduated from Grover Cleveland High School in 1967 / Brown worked for a Jefferson Avenue grocery store before entering the Marine Corps / Andrew Thomas Brown was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Tylersburg Cemetery, Tylersburg, Pennsylvania

Andrew Thomas Brown is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43w, Line 2



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

JOEL

A.

Address: 64 KENNISON PARKWAY

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 2ND BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 2ND INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF 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:

Private First-Class Joel Andrew Brown honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Joel Brown was deployed to Vietnam on 10 October 1966 and served as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Joel Brown was Killed In Action on 10 March 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Private First-Class Joel Brown distinguished himself by exceptional valorous actions on 10 March 1967, while serving as a machine gunner on an armored personnel carrier near Prek Klok / Late at night, Private Brown's base camp came under heavy ground and mortar attack from a numerically superior Viet Cong force / PFC Brown continuously placed deadly accurate fire on the enemy, until thrown from the carrier by the explosion of a rocket round / Badly shaken, Brown braved withering fire to carry an unconscious comrade to safety and once again returned to the line / As the attack intensified, Private Brown detected an enemy rocket position and directed effective fire upon it, knocking it out / Blown from the carrier by a second rocket round and seriously wounded, he continued to ignore his personal safety and maintained his lethal fire in support of his unit's now mounting counteroffensive / As his unit directed its counterattack, Private Brown continued to inflict heavy casualties upon the enemy until a third rocket round hit his carrier's turret, mortally wounding him / PFC Joel Brown was Killed In Action on 10 March 1967, a ground casualty of multiple fragmentation wounds / PFC Brown was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously)



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

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

Ft. 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 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:

Joel Brown was a 1963 graduate of Frontier High School / Brown was a former member of AFL-CIO Local 2603 / Joel Brown was inducted into the United States Army on 26 April 1966 / Joel Andrew Brown was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Joel Andrew Brown is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 16e, Line 51

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 2nd Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army that has served for more than two hundred years / It was constituted on 12 April 1808 as the 6th Infantry and consolidated with 4 other regiments in 1815 to form the present unit / The 2nd Battalion deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vũng Tàu in October 1965 and assigned to Lai Khe, Vietnam / The battalion initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon and on 2 January 1967, the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / During four and a half years the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bù Đốp (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Lộc, and An Lộc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / On 15 April 1970 the 2nd Battalion was inactivated

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN, JR.**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

J.

Address: 90 18TH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Robert Brown was deployed to Vietnam on 15 April 1970 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / Corporal Brown was Killed in Action on 22 July 1970 as a result of enemy rocket mortar fire during combat action on Hill 805, Firebase Ripcord, Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Brown was a graduate of Lafayette High School / Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, New York

Robert Joseph Brown, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08w, Line 41

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord was a 23-day battle between elements of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and two reinforced divisions of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) that took place from 1 to 23 July 1970 / It was the last major confrontation between United States ground forces and the PAVN during the Vietnam War / Three Medals of Honor and six Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to participants for actions during the operations

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

The 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 case posthumously



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

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

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

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

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUCHNER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: DERBY

JAMES

I.

Address: 6865 ERIE ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class James Irving Buchner honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 James Buchner was deployed to Vietnam on 22 August 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 James Buchner was Killed In Action on 23 January 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Kontum province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Buchner was a graduate of Lake Shore High School / Prior to entering the U.S. Army, Buchner worked at the family-owned Woodbine Tavern in Derby and at Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / James Irving Buchner was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

James Irving Buchner is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35e, Line 14

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURNS**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

E.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

2ND PLATOON, COMPANY H, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION,
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

1ST MARINE DIVISION, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Edward Burns honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James Burns was deployed to Vietnam on 10 October 1967 as a Machine Gunner / PFC James Burns was Killed In Action on 7 December 1967 from an explosive device while fighting hostile forces in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

PFC James E. Burns and LCPL David L. Zywicke were members of 2nd Platoon, H Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines / On 7 December 1967, they were killed in an attack on their overnight position during a combat patrol, possibly from a claymore mine had been set off / This blast was immediately followed by a series of more explosions

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Burns was born in Ocean Springs, Mississippi before moving to Buffalo / James Burns graduated from School #52 and attended McKinley Vocational High School / Burns enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 5 April 1967 / James Edward Burns was 18 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Fontainebleau



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Baptist Cemetery, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

James Edward Burns is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 57

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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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BURNS JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOHN

J.

Address: 11 COBURG STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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 John James Burns, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Burns served in Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 John Burns, Jr. was Killed In Action on 11 February 1970 during a mortar attack on Fire Base Rifle, 40 miles northwest of Danang, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Burns graduated in 1963 from St. Joseph Collegiate Institute where he was a member of the Track Team / Burns was a 1967 graduate of Canisius College and was a member of the Track Team and the Cross Country Team and also coached the basketball team during his senior year / John Burns attended graduate school for a year at the University of Massachusetts and was an examiner-trainee for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. before being drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1968 / John James Burns, Jr. was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

John James Burns, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 124



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURROUGHS JR**
JUDGE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Judge Burroughs, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Judge Burroughs was deployed to Vietnam on 12 March 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Judge Burroughs was Killed In Action on 8 August 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile action at LZ (landing zone) Juliet, Pleiku province, South Vietnam

On 2 August 1966, Operation Paul Revere II was a continuing mission, beginning in May 1966, to interdict North Vietnamese Army (NVA) infiltration and supply routes in the Pleiku and Kontum Provinces / From 2 August to 7 August, efforts centered on finding the enemy / The enemy was reportedly in the area, but most of the sightings and contacts were of individuals and small groups / Shortly after noon on 8 August, A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, made contact with a large enemy force near Landing Zone Juliet / The 3rd Platoon was on point and made the initial contact with the NVA / They aggressively pursued and were immediately hit by several enemy heavy and light machine guns, cutting them off from the rest of the company / Most of the 3rd Platoon was able to exfiltrate back to the A Company perimeter, where the company found itself under very heavy attack / The Americans at Juliet withstood mass assaults for several hours / An attempt to encircle the company was beaten back by heavy artillery and Tactical (TAC) Air Support / Cannon fire from Charlie Battery, Division Artillery delivered 1408 high-explosive rounds in two hours, which reportedly eliminated 98 NVA / When the roar of helicopters from two companies from the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, was heard arriving to reinforce LZ Juliet, the enemy broke contact, leaving 106 of their dead / The enemy was pursued until contact



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

was lost after dark / The United States paid a high price in the engagement: 25 dead and 36 more wounded / The lost troopers included SP4 Clifton E. Bennett, SP4 Judge Burroughs Jr., PFC Orrie J. Buskey, PFC Brian J. Clune, PSGT Melvin F. Floyd, PFC Charles R. Greene, PFC David C. Hampton, SSGT Martis L. Haynes, PFC Douglas W. Jones, PFC George E. Matuscsak, PFC Mark E. Parker, SP4 Derek B. Pope, PFC Richard W. Power, SP4 Charles R. Powers, SP4 Richard W. Roy, SP4 Donald A. Sherrod, PFC John H. Shetters, PFC Frederick Stafford, PFC Bradley H. Tate, PFC David L. Thorpe, PFC Jack A. Welch, PFC Donald L. Corbin, SP4 John J. Kolz, PFC Alfredo Ostolaza-Maldonado, and SMAJ Richard A. Schaaf

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Judge Burroughs, Jr. was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Pine Hill Cemetery, Bessemer, Alabama

Judge Burroughs, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09e, Line 111

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

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUTTON**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

HOWARD

E.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered: 1954

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

"A" COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBOURNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Howard Earl Button honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Howard Button was deployed to Vietnam on 2 December 1967 as an Infantryman / SFC Howard Button was Killed In Action on 31 January 1968 as a result of combat operations in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Howard Earl Button had served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 - 1954, serving on the USS Toledo and the USS Albuquerque / In 1954, Button joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 101st Airborne Division

This was the second tour of Vietnam for SFC Howard Button, with his first deployment in 1965-1966

Base Assignments:

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky-Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

Miscellaneous:

Howard Button was born in Portville, New York / Howard Button left Olean High School in 1951 to join the Navy / Howard Earl Button was 33 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hill Crest Memorial Cemetery, Paris, Tennessee

Howard Earl Button is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35e, Line 89

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CALLAGHAN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

DENNIS

P.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, AMERICAL DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Dennis Patrick Callaghan honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Dennis Callaghan was deployed to Vietnam on 4 February 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Cpl Dennis Callaghan was Killed In Action on 6 May 1970 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during hostile enemy action in Quang Ngai province, South Vietnam

On 6 May 1970, during a combat patrol north of the Nhuan Hoa hamlet in Binh Son District, members of Cpl Callaghan's battalion encountered enemy sniper fire / During the engagement, Corporal Dennis Callaghan and another soldier were killed by hostile rifle fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Callaghan was a graduate of St. Mary's-on-the-Lake Elementary School and graduated from Frontier Central High School / Callaghan attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill for 2 years prior to entering the U.S. Army in 1969 / Dennis Patrick Callaghan was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Dennis Patrick Callaghan is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11w, Line 109

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 198th Infantry Brigade, was first formed as part of the United States Army Reserve's 99th Division and was active from 1967 through 1971 / During the years of 1967–1971 as part of the Vietnam War, the 198th was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division / In 1968, elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade participated in the Battle of Kham Duc / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CAMMARATA**
SALVATORE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 69 FAIRDALE ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Salvatore Cammarata honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Salvatore Cammarata was deployed to Vietnam on 15 July 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman and was stationed at an ammunition dump in Tay Ninh about 100 miles from Saigon, South Vietnam / SP4 Salvatore Cammarata was Killed In Action on 4 February 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds during hostile enemy action in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Operation Gadsden was conducted by the 25th Infantry Division in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, during 2-12 February 1967 / The action was planned as a deception maneuver ahead of Operation Junction City in which the 25th Infantry Division sought to engage the North Vietnamese Army's 271st Regiment in the western area of War Zone C / Following B-52 bombing strikes against suspected base areas of the 271st Regiment, eight U.S. infantry battalions moved into the area and seized two abandoned border villages, Lo Go and Xom Giua, which had served as supply depots from the Sihanouk Trail in Cambodia, a network of roads and trails that provided manpower and materiel to the Viet Cong / About three miles southeast of the Lo Go border post, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade created a forward operating base / On 4 February 1967, the base was subjected to an enemy mortar attack, resulting in the death of four U.S. personnel / Killed in the barrage were SP4 Salvatore Cammarata, PFC Robert F. Helveston, SGT Joseph R. Martinez, and PFC John Storelli

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Miscellaneous:

Salvatore Cammarata attended Bishop Ryan High School and worked at Bethlehem Steel Corp before enlisting in the U.S. Army / Salvatore Cammarata was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawana, New York

Salvatore Cammarata is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14e, Line 116

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CARLONI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

F.

Address: 119 WALTER STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

2ND PLATOON, COMPANY I, 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION,
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Francis Carloni honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James Carloni was deployed to Vietnam on 17 September 1969 as a Rifleman / PFC James Carloni was Killed In Action on 2 December 1969 as a result of an explosive device during hostile enemy action in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

A booby trap was believed to be a grenade placed inside a C-rations can and placed along the trail / A trip wire was stretched across the trail and detonated when a soldier snapped the wire / PFC James Carloni was a casualty of the explosion

While returning to the PPB (Platoon Patrol Base) from LZ (Landing Zone) Ross the fourth Marine in the column tripped a wire the vicinity of Xuan Que hamlet in Que Son District that detonated a grenade hidden inside of a C-Ration can on the side of the trail / The explosion wounded five Marines and PFC Carloni was killed as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

James Carloni attended South Park High School and was a member of the Babcock Street Boy's Club / James Francis Carloni was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James Francis Carloni is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 16

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

The 7th Marine Regiment is an infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps based at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California / Nicknamed the "Magnificent Seventh", the regiment falls under the command of the 1st Marine Division and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / In 1965, the regiment was deployed to South Vietnam / While in service in Vietnam the 7th Marine regiment participated in the following military operations: Operation Starlite, Operation Piranha, Operation Harvest Moon, Operation Mallard, operations Texas and Indiana, Operation Golden Fleece 7-1, Operation Rio Blanco, Operation Shark, Operation Boone, Operation Duval, Operation Desoto, Operation Foster, Tet Offensive, Operation Allen Brook, Operation Mameluke Thrust, Operation Daring Endeavor, Operation Linn River, Operation Meade River, Operation Oklahoma Hills, Operation Taylor Common, Phase I of Operation Pipestone Canyon, the defense of Que Son, Operation Pickens Forest and Operation Imperial Lake / The last elements of 7th Marines departed the Republic of Vietnam 13 October 1970 / The mission of the 7th Marine Regiment is to conduct mechanized, combined-arms operations and other expeditionary operations in order to support theater engagement plans and contingency operations / The regiment will be prepared to deploy within 48-hours of the receipt of an execute order as either the ground combat element for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB) or as a major subordinate element of the 1st Marine Division / As directed, the regiment will prepare infantry battalions for deployment to the Pacific Command (PACOM AOR) in order to support III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) operations and training

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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

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

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

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CARTONIA**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

CARMEN

P.

Address: 550 BRECKINRIDGE STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Carmen Paul Cartoncia honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Carmen Cartoncia was deployed to Vietnam on 15 July 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Carmen Cartoncia was Killed In Action on 4 November 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile enemy action Near Dau Tieng, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

At the beginning of November 1966, operations near the "Black Virgin" Mountain were uncovering very large NVA/VC supply caches / Because the NVA/VC could not afford to lose the supplies, they were forced to fight beginning with heavy action near Dau Tieng starting on 03 Nov 1966, when 13 US soldiers died in the fighting / It continued on 04 November, with 11 US infantry companies in the field, supported by air and artillery as well as ARVN infantry / By day's end, the NVA/VC commanders realized they could not protect their supply caches and began a withdrawal toward the Cambodian border / Seventeen more US soldiers, including PFC Carmen Cartoncia, died in the fighting on 04 Nov 1966

PFC Carmen Cartoncia briefly served with his brother, Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph A. Cartoncia, Jr. while both were deployed to South Vietnam / SP4 Joseph Cartoncia, Jr. returned home and honorably discharged on 11 September 1966

The Brother-In-Law of PFC Carmen Cartoncia, Private First-Class Donald Dray, was Killed In Action on 14



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

September 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Carmen Cartonia was a graduate of School 1 and McKinley Vocational High School / Cartonia worked at the Loblaw's Bakery prior to being inducted into the U.S. Army on 19 October 1965 / Carmen Paul Cartonia was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Carmen Paul Cartonia is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12e, Line 23

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal

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

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CASILLO

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

CARMINE

Address: 213 BERKSHIRE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

ALPHA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Carmine Casillo honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Carmine Casillo was deployed to Vietnam on 9 January 1968 as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / PFC Carmine Casillo was Killed In Action on 7 March 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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:

Carmine Casillo was born in Saint Joseph, Italy before coming to America / Casillo attended Grover Cleveland and McKinley High Schools before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1967 / Carmine Casillo was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Carmine Casillo is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43e, Line 42

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

1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (1/3) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii / Nicknamed the "Lava Dogs", the battalion consists of approximately 800 Marines and sailors and falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / On 1 May 1942, the 1st Training Battalion was activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina / A month and a half later, on June 17, the unit was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment / The battalion received its first combat experience in November 1943 against the Japanese in the Battle of Bougainville / The battalion fought with distinction for nearly two months against stiff resistance in difficult terrain before being sent to Guadalcanal and Guam / The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines became the second American infantry unit to enter South Vietnam / The battalion began its movement, via air, to Da Nang Air Base in early March 1965 and completed its movement by mid-March / Less than six months after its arrival, 1/3 was withdrawn to Okinawa / The battalion was sent back to Vietnam on 18 November 1965 / In 1969, the United States began to slowly withdraw combat units from Southeast Asia / One of the first Marine units to be notified to commence stand down operations was 1st Battalion, 3d Marines / The unit departed South Vietnam for the United States on 5 October 1969 / Towards the end of the month the battalion arrived in California and was located at again at Camp Pendleton

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CATALANO

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

GEORGE

F.

Address: 63 MANG AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 29TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, 550TH ORDNANCE DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class George Francis Catalano honorably served in the United States Army / PFC George Catalano was deployed to Vietnam as an Ammunition Helper on 27 April 1967 / PFC George Catalano died on 30 July 1967 from a non-hostile accident in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

PFC George Catalano, assigned as an Ordnance Supply Clerk, volunteered to operate a fork lift unloading ammunition in Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam / Catalano was killed after he dismounted the fork lift which moved forward, pinning him against a track trailer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After graduation from St. Paul's Parochial School in Kenmore, George Catalano was a seminarian for three years at Mt. Carmel Seminary, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada / Catalano attended and graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School and attended the University of Buffalo before entering the U.S. Army / George Francis Catalano was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at United German and French Cemetery Cheektowaga, New York

George Francis Catalano is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 24e, Line 50

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

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CAYLOR

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RANDY

L.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Randy Lee Caylor honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Randy Caylor was deployed to Vietnam on 10 October 1970 as a Light Weapon Infantryman / SP4 Randy Caylor was Killed In Action on 31 July 1971 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 31 July 1971, Specialist Fourth-Class Caylor was involved with a company-sized combat operation on the east slope of Hill 953 in Quang Nam Province, RVN, an area previously occupied the year before by U.S. Marines / "D" Company was dropped off at landing zone half way up the hill, requiring several transport ships to deliver the entire company / Once on the ground, some of the troop noticed a U.S. Army OV-10 Bronco observation plane fly overhead, turn around, and come back / It then started dropping white smoke grenades on a nearby area making them unsure what the crew of the Bronco was trying to tell them since there was no radio contact / Someone shouted there was movement up ahead and several GI's moved forward / The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 82mm mortars began to rain down on "D" Company's position, pinning them down so the enemy could advance / Next was gunfire, grenades, and the RPG's (rocket-propelled grenades) / Within 15 minutes of landing, several men were killed, including SP4 Randy Caylor (who was hit by mortar fire) / American air assets began dropping napalm and 500-pound bombs, and eventually "D" Company took Hill 953 / A later intelligence report said they had run into a large unit of hard core NVA, dug in and ready to fight / Two days after taking the hill, it was abandoned by U.S. forces



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Randy Lee Caylor was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Worthville Cemetery, Worthville, Pennsylvania

Randy Lee Caylor is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03w, Line 119

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The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal

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1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHAMBLEY**
THEODORE R.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 1448 FILLMORE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1946

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, 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

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Theodore Roosevelt Chambley honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Theodore Chambley was deployed to Vietnam on 18 August 1965 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Theodore Chambley was Killed In Action on 16 October 1965 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during hostile enemy action in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

During a "search and destroy" combat operation near Bien Hoa, central South Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Chambley was wounded in the right thigh and left shoulder / SSG Chambley died during surgery

SSG Theodore Chambley enlisted in the U.S. Army on 22 March 1946 and served nearly 20 years / Chambley was stationed in Germany and Japan prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

Theodore Chambley was born in Winston Salem, North Carolina and raised in Niagara Falls, New York / Theodore Chambley enlisted in the U.S. Army on 22 March 1946 in Buffalo / Theodore Roosevelt Chambley was 38 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Theodore Roosevelt Chambley is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 02e, Line 124

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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

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

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

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

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHUBBUCK**
MICHAEL F.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Michael Francis Chubbuck honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Michael Chubbuck was deployed to Vietnam on 4 March 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Michael Chubbuck was Killed In Action on 3 June 1968 from small arms fire during hostile enemy action at the Plain of Reeds, Kin Ton Doc Canal, Dinh Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Corporal Michael Chubbuck was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery when during combat operations / CPL Chubbuck threw a grenade into a bunker and crawled in, capturing a Viet Cong Company Commander and the Commander's Executive Officer

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Francis Chubbuck was 21 years of age at his passing and is interred at Saint Augustine Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Michael Francis Chubbuck is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 61w, Line 22



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The 39th Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment in the United States Army / Originally organized for service in World War I, the 39th fought in most of the conflicts involving the United States during the 20th century, and since 1990 the 2nd Battalion has served as a training unit stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina / The 3rd Battalion was started on 21 October 2015 and a 4th Battalion was added in July 2017 / During World War II the regiment fought as part of the 9th Infantry Division / The Fighting Falcons of the 39th became the first unit of United States combat troops to set foot on foreign soil when they stormed the beaches of Algiers in November 1942 / During World War II, the 39th Regiment saw battle action in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, The Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe / During the Vietnam War, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions, 39th Infantry Regiment were reactivated on 1 February 1966 as part of the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas / The 39th deployed in 1966 with the 9th Infantry Division to South Vietnam / The regiment participated in Operation Palm Tree, the 1968 Tet Offensive, and the battle of the Plain of Reeds / The 39th Infantry Regiment returned to Hawaii and deactivated in September, 1969

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **COBB**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: DEPEW

JAMES

P.

Address: 35 COWING STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, TROOP B

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant James Paul Cobb honorably served in the United States Army / SGT James Cobb was deployed to Vietnam on 31 August 1970 and served as a Helicopter Repairman / Sgt Cobb was Killed In Action on 15 February 1971 when his plane crashed after rescuing a fellow soldier in Leech Island Perfume R Sf Extraction, Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

On 15 February 1971, Sergeant James Cobb as the Crew Chief, was part of the crew onboard US Army helicopter UH-1H #68-16554 from B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry / Their mission had been to extract a wounded Ranger in stormy monsoon weather / After the successful extraction the helicopter was returning to base and was making an approach for a night landing during inclement weather at the Phu Bai airfield in Thua Tien Province when it crashed, killing Sergeant James Paul Cobb and six other military personnel onboard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Cobb attended Lancaster High School / James Paul Cobb was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Mary of the Assumption Cemetery in Lancaster, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

James Paul Cobb is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 105

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Sergeant James Paul Cobb was also awarded the following medals

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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONKLIN**
RONALD R.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: COLLINS

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Ronald Raymond Conklin honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Ronald Conklin was deployed to Vietnam on 26 August 1968 and served as an Armor Crewman / SP4 Ronald Conklin was Killed In Action on 3 December 1968 when the tank he was operating hit a land mine during hostile enemy action in Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

Sp4 Conklin served in Germany prior to his volunteer deployment to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Conklin was born in Brant and attended Gowanda Central High School prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army / Ronald Raymond Conklin was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Brant Cemetery, Brant, New York

Ronald Raymond Conklin is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 37w, Line 30

An Armor Crewman is a highly trained soldier who operates and maintains the M1 Abrams tank, which is the backbone of the U.S. Army's armored forces / They work as part of a team to operate armored equipment and fire weapons to destroy enemy positions / During combat, their role is to operate tanks and amphibious assault vehicles to engage and destroy the enemy

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 Freedom / The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry is a battalion of the United States Army and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado

The 69th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The 69th Armor Regiment is part of the U.S. Army Regimental System / The 1st Battalion was deployed to South Vietnam on 25 January 1966 with the Battalion laying over in Okinawa to take over 52 new M48A3 tanks and familiarize crews with the new series, AN-GRC 12 radios / "A" Company was committed within two hours of its disembarking from LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) in Saigon as a reaction force to combat in the Filhol Rubber Plantation west of Saigon / The battalion's first major combat operation took place in April 1966 in the tangled jungle growth of the Ho Bo Woods and along the trails of the Filhol Rubber plantation northwest of Saigon / This operation proved the value of armor in reducing friendly casualties while significantly increasing losses to the enemy / 69th Armor tankers learned on-the-job the importance of rear and flank security, the effect of canister in dense jungle, the exaggerated needs for constant maintenance halts / "A" Company completed its mission with the 1st Cavalry in October 1967 and returned to Camp Enari with Battalion HQ / "A" Company was charged with the security of Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Pass, and on 10 April 1968, routed a regimental size ambush attempt on a convoy by the 95B Regiment killing 45 Viet Cong and capturing seven crew-served weapons; U.S. losses were one killed / The battalion continued operations west of Pleiku and along the coastal plain during 1969 with both the 4th Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade / The 1st Battalion stood down with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

returned to the U.S. in mid-1970 / The unit and its component line companies were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Award, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Vietnam Civic Action Award First Class

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

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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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CORBETT

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

MARK

C.

Address: 149 HARTWELL ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

COMBAT MEDICAL 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:

Private First-Class Mark Charles Corbett honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Mark Corbett was deployed to Vietnam on 2 December 1969 as a Medical Corpsman / PFC Mark Corbett was Killed In Action on 27 December 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during hostile enemy action in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On 27 December 1969, PFC Corbett's unit encountered a hostile force in Tay Ninh Province and engaged the enemy in a fire fight / PFC Mark Corbett was mortally wounded by hostile rifle fire, evacuated for treatment, but died shortly after arriving at a Army Medical facility

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Mark Corbett was a 1966 graduate of Cardinal Dougherty High School and attended evening classes at the State University of Buffalo prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army on 10 February 1969 / Mark Charles Corbett was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Mark Charles Corbett is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 97

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

The 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 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry (4/9) disembarked at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 29 April 1965 / Within days of landing, the 4/9 Infantry saw combat action in Cu Chi, Vietnam / Battalion-size operations conducted by the 4/9 Infantry included Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Helemano, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry / The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry served in Vietnam for four years and six months

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Combat Medical Badge (CMB) is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945 / Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB / According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy; strict adherence to this requirement and its interpretation (e.g., distant mortar rounds vs. direct small arms fire) will vary by unit

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CORSON**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RICHARD

P.

Address: 235 NEWFIELD STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Richard P. Corson honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Richard Corson was deployed to Vietnam on 26 December 1965 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Richard Corson was Killed In Action on 4 March 1966 from multiple gunshot wounds suffered during a 7-hour battle with Viet Cong forces during the battle of Battle at My Phu, Phu Yen province, South Vietnam

PFC Richard Corson received paratrooper training at Ft. Benning Georgia

Base Assignments:

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

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

Miscellaneous:

Richard Corson graduated from Riverside High School in 1964 and served as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 147 from Grace Episcopal Church / Corson was employed by Chevrolet Motor Division's River Road plant before entering the U.S. Army in December 1965 / Richard P. Corson was 22 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Richard P. Corson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05e, Line 101

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division and has also been deployed in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965 / In October 1968 the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CROSBY, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: SPRINGVILLE

BRUCE

A.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

8TH RADIO RESEARCH FIELD STATION, 509TH RADIO RESEARCH GROUP, UNITED STATES ARMY
VIETNAM (USARV)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Bruce Crosby was deployed to Vietnam as a Terminal Receiving System Repairman on 9 October 1971 and was serving as an advisor to the 4th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps on Hill 550 near Don Toan Mountain and Cua Mai Loc, Cam Lo District, Quang Tri District / Sergeant Bruce Crosby, Jr. was Killed In Action on 30 March 1972 during hostile artillery rocket or mortar fire in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam / The remains of Sergeant Bruce were never recovered

On 30 March 1972, a fire support base known as "Firebase Sarge" on Hill 550 in Cam Lo District, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, was subjected to intense enemy artillery attack / An enemy rocket penetrated a radio bunker on the firebase and exploded inside, igniting demolition charges stored there / The bunker roof caved in and an intense fire ensued / Because of the fire and the ongoing enemy bombardment, other men on the firebase could not attempt to rescue the two radio operators / Sergeant Bruce Crosby, Jr. and Gary Westcott were the two occupants of the radio bunker when it was hit and was lost in the explosion / "Firebase Sarge" was abandoned shortly thereafter, with the remnants of the bunker still burning and everything inside completely destroyed

Sergeant Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. is memorialized on the on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific / This is an American Battle Monuments Commission location



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing / A grave marker to remember and honor Bruce A. Crosby, Jr. was placed in Fairview Cemetery, Springville, New York

Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr. is memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

Bruce Allen Crosby, Jr is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 02w, Line 125

The 8th Radio Research Field Station (RRFS), 509th Radio Research (RR) Group. "Radio Research" was a secret cover designation for certain units operating under the direction of the U.S. Army Security Agency Group (USASA), Vietnam / All missions of this agency were highly classified / The 8th USASA Field Station handled classified functions related to the safeguarding of the Army and its affiliated activities including signal security and electronic intelligence

The U.S. Army has supported its fighting forces with signals intelligence since World War I / The first permanent organization to do this was established in 1930 as the Signal Intelligence Service / During World War II, the SIS (renamed the Signal Security Service in 1943 and later the Signal Security Agency (SSA) exploited the communications of both Germany and Japan, shortening the war and saving many thousands of American lives / The Signal Security Agency was reorganized as the Army Security Agency (ASA) at Arlington Hall Station, Virginia, on 15 September 1945 / In 1955, ASA took over electronic intelligence (ELINT) and electronic warfare functions previously carried out by the Signal Corps / In the 1960s, ASA was again called upon to assist U.S. forces in the field / On 13 May 1961, the first contingent of Army Security Agency personnel arrived in South Vietnam (setting up an organization at Tan Son Nhut Air Base) to provide support to the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group and help train the South Vietnamese Army / During the early years of conflict, ASA troops in Vietnam were assigned to the 3rd Radio Research Unit / Their primary mission was to locate Viet Cong transmitters operating in the south / With the introduction of large U.S. ground combat elements into South Vietnam in 1965, the ASA organization in-country expanded / The 3rd RRU was replaced by the 509th Radio Research Group, which commanded three battalions and company-size direct support units assigned to all Army divisions / One of the 509th's subordinate battalions was the 224th Aviation Battalion (Radio Research), which pioneered in the introduction of Special Electronic Mission Aircraft (SEMA) to the battlefield / At the height of the war, the 509th Radio Research Group commanded some 6,000 ASA personnel in-country. Meanwhile, the agency itself had greatly expanded, reaching a strength of 30,000 and attaining the status of a major Army field command in 1964 / On 1 January 1977, Headquarters, U.S. Army Security agency, was redesignated as Headquarters, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CUMMINGS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

E.

Address: 58 GOOD AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

2ND PLATOON, COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION,
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Edward Cummings honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James Cummings was deployed to Vietnam on 5 February 1969 as an Antitank Assaultman / PFC James Cummings was Killed In Action on 23 February 1969 as a result of a head wound received during hostile enemy action while on patrol south of Da Nang, South Vietnam / PFC Thomas was in Vietnam 18 days before his passing

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Miscellaneous:

James Cummings graduated from South Park High School in 1968 / Cummings enlisted in the U.S. Marines Corps in July 1968 / James Edward Cummings was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

James Edward Cummings is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32w, Line 94

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

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

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CUNNINGHAM

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

CLARENCE

B.

Address: 463 DODGE STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Clarence Beno Cunningham honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Clarence Cunningham was deployed to Vietnam on 2 August 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Clarence Cunningham was Killed In Action on 24 October 1968 as a result of fragmentation wounds to the body from hostile grenades thrown at the Marines at an ambush site, 4 kilometers west southwest of the Nam-O Bridge, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

PFC Cunningham served in the Marines under the name of Clarence Beno Cunningham / His actual correct name was Clarence Beno Cunningham Evans

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

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

Miscellaneous:

Clarence Cunningham attended School #37 and graduated from East High School / Cunningham worked at the Bethlehem Steel Plant prior to enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1968 / Clarence Beno Cunningham was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Clarence Beno Cunningham is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 40w, Line 27

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

1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (1/3) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii / Nicknamed the "Lava Dogs", the battalion consists of approximately 800 Marines and sailors and falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / On 1 May 1942, the 1st Training Battalion was activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina / A month and a half later, on June 17, the unit was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment / The battalion received its first combat experience in November 1943 against the Japanese in the Battle of Bougainville / The battalion fought with distinction for nearly two months against stiff resistance in difficult terrain before being sent to Guadalcanal and Guam / The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines became the second American infantry unit to enter South Vietnam / The battalion began its movement, via air, to Da Nang Air Base in early March 1965 and completed its movement by mid-March / Less than six months after its arrival, 1/3 was withdrawn to Okinawa / The battalion was sent back to Vietnam on 18 November 1965 / In 1969, the United States began to slowly withdraw combat units from Southeast Asia / One of the first Marine units to be notified to commence stand down operations was 1st Battalion, 3d Marines / The unit departed South Vietnam for the United States on 5 October 1969 / Towards the end of the month the battalion arrived in California and was located at again at Camp Pendleton

The 26th Marine Regiment (26th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The 26th Marines were activated in 1944 and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and were activated again on 1 March 1966, and fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War / On 1 March 1966 the 26th Marine Regiment was activated at Camp Pendleton initiating the formation of the 5th Marine



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CURRY, JR.**
WILBUR

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1948

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, 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 / KOREA

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Wilbur Curry was deployed to Vietnam on 16 August 1965 and served as a Light Weapons Infantryman in Vietnam / SSG Curry, Jr. was a Platoon Leader who was Killed In Action on 15 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation (grenade) wounds suffered during combat action at Landing Zone X-ray Ia Drang Valley, Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

The Battle of Ia Drang comprised two main engagements that took place on 14-17 November 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley / It was the first major confrontation between the United States and the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War / It became a blueprint for tactics by both sides / The Americans used air mobility, artillery fire and close air support to accomplish battlefield objectives / The NVA learned that they could neutralize that firepower by quickly engaging American forces at very close range

Staff Sergeant Curry, Jr. did multiple deployments to Vietnam / SSG Curry was an advisor to a Vietnamese unit in 1964 and returned to Vietnam in September 1965 with the 173rd Brigade

SSG Wilbur Curry also fought in the Korean War and was wounded in action

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 / SSG Curry served in the Korean War and was wounded on 6 March 1953 while leading a patrol



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wilbur Curry graduated from Hutchinson High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1947 / Wilbur Curry, Jr. was 35 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Wilbur Curry, Jr is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03e, Line 54

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

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, 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 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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

As a Korean War veteran, Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. received the following honors while serving in South Korea:

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950 by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954

The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea"

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military unit award of the government of South Korea that may be presented to South Korean military units, and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea / It is awarded for exceptional meritorious service to South Korea / The citation may be presented to units that participated in the defense of South Korea as part of the U.N. forces during the Korean War

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: D'AGOSTINO

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

NORMAN

T.

Address: 122 RUHLAND AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 5TH BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Norman Thomas D'Agostino honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Norman D'Agostino was deployed to Vietnam on 11 August 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Norman D'Agostino was Killed In Action on 13 February 1968 by hostile enemy small arms fire during the TET Offensive in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Norman D'Agostino was a graduate of St. Joachims Parochial School and Emerson Vocational High School / D'Agostino was drafted into the Army in March 1967 / Norman Thomas D'Agostino was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Norman Thomas D'Agostino is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39e, Line 27

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 offense



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DALKE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

BURTON

W.

Address: 95 WHEELER STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Burton Ward Dalke honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Burton Dalke was deployed to Vietnam on 22 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Burton Dalke was Killed In Action on 6 May 1969 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds received during enemy combat action in Dinh Tuong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Burton Dalke joined the U.S. Army in June 1968 / Burton Ward Dalke was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Burton Ward Dalke is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 11

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 39th Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment in the United States Army / Originally organized for service in World War I, the 39th fought in most of the conflicts involving the United States during the 20th century, and since 1990 the 2nd Battalion has served as a training unit stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina / The 3rd Battalion was started on 21 October 2015 and a 4th Battalion was added in July 2017 / During World War II the regiment fought as part of the 9th Infantry Division / The Fighting Falcons of the 39th became the first unit of United States combat troops to set foot on foreign soil when they stormed the beaches of Algiers in November 1942 / During World War II, the 39th Regiment saw battle action in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, The Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe / During the Vietnam War, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions, 39th Infantry Regiment were reactivated on 1 February 1966 as part of the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas / The 39th deployed in 1966 with the 9th Infantry Division to South Vietnam / The regiment participated in Operation Palm Tree, the 1968 Tet Offensive, and the battle of the Plain of Reeds / The 39th Infantry Regiment returned to Hawaii and deactivated in September, 1969

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DASARO**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

AGOSTINO

W.

Address: 353 HAMPSHIRE STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (MAF), 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (MAW) , MARINE
AIRCRAFT GROUP (MAG) 16

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Agostino William Dasaro honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Agostino Dasaro was deployed to Vietnam on 22 April 1966 as an Aviation Supply Man / CPL Dasaro died from head wounds suffered in a vehicle crash on 16 February 1967 in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Agostino Dasaro attended South Park High School for two years and graduated from Lafayette High School / Prior to entering the Marine Corps, Dasaro worked as a Stock Clerk for two years at Kleinhans Clothing Store / Agostino Dasaro enlisted in the Marines Corps on 9 September 1966 / Agostino William Dasaro was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Agostino William Dasaro is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15e, Line 41

Marine Aviation Supply Specialists are responsible for providing logistic support to aviation activities and to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

complete customer requests / Aviation Supply Specialists fulfill orders for aviation supply support, if a maintenance part is needed quickly, they are the ones who supply it

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

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is an aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps that serves as the Aviation Combat Element of the III Marine Expeditionary Force / The wing is headquartered at Camp Foster on the island of Okinawa, Japan / Activated in 1940, the wing has seen heavy combat operations during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War / The mission of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is to conduct air operations in support of the Fleet Marine Forces to include offensive air support, antiair warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance including active and passive electronic countermeasures (ECM), and control of aircraft and missiles

Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16) is a United States Marine Corps aviation unit based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / The group falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force / The mission of MAG-16 is to provide air support to Marine Air-Ground Task Force commanders / Marine Helicopter Transport Group 16 (MAG(HR)-16) was commissioned on 1 March 1952 at Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, California / MAG-16 was the first helicopter group established in the Marine Corps

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DEARDEN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

ALLEN

K.

Address: 47 SICKMAN AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Allen Kenneth "Ollie" Dearden honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Allen Dearden was deployed to Vietnam on 30 March 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Allen Deardon was Killed In Action on 18 May 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during military operations when the military vehicle he was riding was hit by hostile recoilless rifle fire in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Italian internees were transferred to Fort Missoula and the Germans to Fort Lincoln, and the temporary detention facility closed on 30 March 1943 / Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Fort Lewis) is the home of much of the 2nd Infantry Division, along with Headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and the 1st Special Forces Group / The mission of the base is to provide support to mission commanders and the joint base community, to serve as an enabler to the soldiers as they train and project America's combat power

Miscellaneous:

Allen Dearden was born in England and came to the United States at the age of 10 years old / Dearden graduated from Hamburg High School in 1965 / Dearden was inducted into the U.S. Army on 30 March 1966 / Allen Kenneth "Ollie" Dearden was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

Allen Kenneth Dearden is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 20e, 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 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 22nd Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment of the United States Army / It was deployed to South Vietnam as part of the 2d Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division and conducted operations in the Central Highlands / It was inactivated in August 1984 at Fort Carson, Colorado / Currently the 2nd Battalion is active, with the regimental colors residing at Fort Drum, New York / The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions have been inactivated

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DEGEN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

ROBERT

F.

Address: 115 SEABROOK DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MAJ

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 77TH ARMOR, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Major Robert F. "Bob" Degen served in the United States Army / Major Robert Degen was deployed to Vietnam on 9 July 1970 as an Operations & Training Staff Officer / Major Robert Degen died on 8 January 1971 as a result of an intentional homicide in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Major Robert Degen served his first tour in Vietnam as an "Early Bird" Advisor in 1964 / Major Degan was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for bravery on the battlefield / Returning stateside, Degen attended the University of Wisconsin for a Masters Diploma in Physical Education (PE), followed by a West Point tour / Major Degen redeployed to Vietnam on 9 July 1970 as a Operations & Training Staff Officer in the Third Armored Division / Major Degen died on 8 January 1971 with the cause listed as a homicide in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Major Degen was killed in a non-hostile incident / Late in the evening of 8 January 1971, Major Degen was returning from the Officer's Club through the 1/77th's company area when he and another Army officer, Major Michael Davis, heard loud music from one of the enlisted men's billets / The officers entered the building and ordered the five occupants to lower the volume / The soldiers complied, and the majors walked away / After moving a short distance, the music blared again / Davis returned to the tent barracks with Degen trailing behind / A man came out with a weapon and fired several shots at the officers, one round striking Degen in the head, killing him instantly / Davis was also hit in the head and was able to drag himself to an aid station / He was



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

transported to the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang in satisfactory condition

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Degen attended Buffalo Technical High School, one year in Engineering at the University of Buffalo and graduated in 1958 after four years at West Point Academy / Robert "Bob" Degen was 34 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at the United States Military Academy Post Cemetery, West Point, New York

Robert Degen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 33

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

The 77th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The 77th Armor Regiment is part of the U.S. Army Regimental System with only a single battalion, the 1st Battalion / July 1968, the 1st Battalion 77th Armor (1-77) deployed from Fort Carson Colorado USA to Wunder Beach, Quảng Trị Province, South Vietnam / In mid-August, the Battalion deployed to positions in Leatherneck Square south of the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in support of 3rd Marine Division infantry operations during heavy fighting / From time to time in 1969, the 77th participated in 3d Marine Division operations on the Khe Sanh plains and up to the vicinity of the DMZ with the US Marines / In total, the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor participated in eight campaigns during its tour in Vietnam / The 77th Armor is currently stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas as part of the 3rd Brigade "Bulldogs", 1st Armored Division and has transformed from a tank pure battalion into a combined arms battalion (CAB)

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DELL

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

THOMAS

C.

Address: 72 LIBERTY TERRACE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Thomas Carl Dell honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Thomas Dell was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / PFC Thomas Dell was Killed In Action on 14 September 1966 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 14 September 1966, a CAP unit (The entire unit of American Marines and Popular Forces militia members together was designated as a Combined Action Platoon (CAP)) and men from H&S Company left the hamlet of Triem Tu southeast of Dien Ban and were attacked by a large force of Viet Cong (VC) / The attack was initiated by an enemy mortar barrage followed by a ground assault against the Marines and Popular Force's (PF) who set up a defensive perimeter / Reinforcements were immediately dispatched with the Viet Cong inflicting several casualties and withdrawing before the friendly forces arrived / Nine PF's (Popular Force, Vietnamese) were killed, and five were wounded as well as two Marines were killed and two mortally wounded in the action / One of the casualties was Private First-Class Thomas Carl Dell who was killed in action from hostile gunshot wounds penetrating his forehead, left side of face and right hip

The twin brother of PFC Thomas Dell, Staff Sergeant Gerald Francis Dell, was deployed to Vietnam in 1966 / Another brother, Major Raymond C. Dell, served honorably in Vietnam and received the Silver Star and the Purple Heart



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Dell enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 30 December 1963 / Thomas Carl Dell was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Thomas Carl Dell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10e, Line 94

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

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

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

The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DEWALD

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOHN

F.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY F, 2ND BATTALION, 9TH MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD MARINE DIVISION, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private John Francis Dewald honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT John Dewald was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman and assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), Third Marine Amphibious Force, Fleet Marine Forces / Private John Dewald was Killed In Action as a result of small arms fire during an ambush on 04 October 1967 in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Dewald enlisted in the Marine Corps on 8 March 1967 in Buffalo / John Francis Dewald was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

John Francis Dewald is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 47

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

2nd Battalion, 9th Marines (2/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, the unit played an instrumental role in the defeat of the Japanese forces in the Battles of Guam and Iwo Jima during World War II / The battalion distinguished itself in the defense of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War, and later participated in an ill-fated invasion of Koh Tang Island in Southeast Asia, with the intention of rescuing the crew of SS Mayaguez / On 4 July 1965, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines were ordered to Vietnam from Okinawa / The 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines fought battles in or around Danang, Hue, Phu Bai, Đông Hà, Camp Carroll, Cam Lộ, Con Thien, Than Cam Son, Quảng Trị, Cửa Việt, Vandegrift Combat Base and what is considered by many as their most vicious engagement, the Battle of Khe Sanh / The 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines left Vietnam in August 1969 and returned to Camp Schwab, Okinawa / During Operation Desert Storm, the battalion served as the lead battalion for the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF)

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

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

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

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

The Combat Action Ribbon is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DEWANE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

RICHARD

A.

Address: 13 SHIRLEY AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD MARINE DIVISION, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Richard Allen Dewan honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Richard Dewan was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman in June 1966 / PFC Richard Dewan was Killed In Action by small arms fire on 28 February 1967 during a combat mission 3 northwest of Hill 124, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

In September 1966, Private First-Class Richard Allen Dewan was wounded in combat action and received the Purple Heart

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Dewan graduated from Cleveland Hill High School in 1965 / Dewan enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1965 / Richard Allen Dewan was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lancaster Rural Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Richard Allen Dewan is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 15e, Line 115

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

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines (2/3) was an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors / The battalion fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment and the 3rd Marine Division / In January 1961, 2/3 was redeployed to Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and reassigned to 3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force / From there the unit deployed at various times between 1961 and 1967 as the Battalion Landing Team of the Seventh Fleet / In April 1965, 2/3 deployed to Da Nang in the Republic of Vietnam / They fought in Vietnam from April 1965 until October 1969 when 2/3 left South Vietnam and relocated to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and was reassigned to 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force / The battalion was deactivated in January 2022 as part of the Marine Corps' ongoing Force Design efforts

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DI TOMMASO**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

ROBERT

J.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: LT COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

388TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Joseph Di Tommaso honorably served in the United States Air Force / LT COL Robert Di Tommaso was a member of the 388th Combat Support Group, Udorn Air Base, Thailand / On 29 July 1966, LT COL Di Tommaso was a crew member of an unarmed Douglas Skytrain Reconnaissance Transport (RC-47D) on an operational mission 15 miles south of Sam Neua, North Vietnam, when it was attacked by enemy fighters and crashed / LT Colonel Di Tommaso's remains were not recovered

(On 29 July 1966, an RC-47D Skytrain (tail number 43-48388, call sign "Dogpatch") with eight crew members carried out a classified mission over North Vietnam / In the last radio contact with "Dogpatch," it reported that it was under attack by enemy aircraft and was being forced down / Later reports indicated that "Dogpatch" had been shot down and that at least six of the crew members had died and been buried near the crash site / The remains of five crew members were eventually recovered, returned to U.S. custody, and identified / The other three crew members are still unaccounted for / Robert Joseph Di Tommaso, who entered the U.S. Air Force from New York, served with the 388th Combat Support Group and was a crew member on "Dogpatch" at the time of its loss / He remains are still unaccounted for / Following the incident, the Air Force promoted Di Tommaso to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) / Lieutenant Colonel Di Tommaso is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific / His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC

The primary objective of the C-47 in Laos at that point in the war was visual reconnaissance/ American forces



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

worked closely with CAS (CIA) primarily to weaken the communist supply link to South Vietnam via the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" / This particular plane, however, was working in support of the CIA's secret indigenous army which was attempting to prevent a communist takeover in Laos)

Base Assignments:

Udorn RTAFB, Thailand - Udorn RTAFB was established in the 1950s and commanded by Thai officers / The civil war inside Laos and fears of it spreading into Thailand led the Thai government to allow the United States to use Udorn in 1961 for the air defense of Thailand and to fly reconnaissance flights over Laos / The USAF forces at Udorn were under the command of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Thirteenth Air Force / Udorn RTAFB was the Asian headquarters for Air America, a US passenger and cargo airline covertly owned and operated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) which provided essential resources for the war in Laos and elsewhere / Air America's roles supportive of covert and overt situations related to hostilities in Southeast Asia and elsewhere worldwide provided buffers and solutions to problems the United States faced in various locations / Operations were focused in Laos as part of the "secret war" the United States carried out against the Pathet Lao forces operating in the country / Air America continued operations from Udorn into Laos until 3 June 1974 / During the Vietnam War the Udorn base was a front-line USAF facility from 1964 through 1976

Miscellaneous:

Robert Joseph "Bob/Bobby" DiTommaso was 24 years old at the time he went missing

Robert Joseph Di Tommaso is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09e, Line 86

The 388th Fighter Wing (388FW) is a United States Air Force unit assigned to the Air Combat Command Fifteenth Air Force / On 23 November 1953, the 388th Fighter-Bomber Wing was activated as part of Tactical Air Command / The 388th Fighter-Interceptor Wing activated as the 388th Fighter-Bomber Group (later renamed 388th Operations Group) and became the wing's primary combat element / The group's squadrons were equipped with North American F-86F Sabres, and training commenced for operational proficiency / In April 1966, the 388th was sent to Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand where it replaced the provisional 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing and assumed host wing responsibilities at Korat / The mission of the wing was to engage in combat operations over Indochina, conducting interdiction, direct air support, armed reconnaissance, and fighter escort missions / During the Vietnam War, numerous units were deployed to and stationed at Korat RTAFB and engaged in combat operations / As part of the rapid buildup of United States forces in Thailand in the mid-1960s, the 388th was the umbrella organization to as many as 34 operating units and about 6,500 USAF airmen / For operations and its wartime service at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base (1966–1975), the wing earned a total of eight Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and a Presidential Unit Citation

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DINUNZIO, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: DERBY

CARL

L.

Address: 6616 SCHUYLER ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

B BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 82D ARTILLERY, AMERICAL DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Carl Lawrence Dinunzio, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Carl Dinunzio was deployed to Vietnam in October 1968 as an Automatic Weapons Crewman / Corporal Carl Dinunzio, Jr. was Killed In Action on 22 March 1969 from mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 22 March 1969, the Fire Support Base on Nui Vong (Hill 105) approximately 8 miles southeast of Quang Ngai City, in the Mo Duc District of Quang Ngai Province came under an enemy mortar attack / CPL Dinunzio was killed by the fragmentation wounds he sustained from the hostile mortar fire

Base Assignments:

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

Ft. 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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:

Carl Dinunzio was a graduate of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs and worked for the highway maintenance section of the State Transportation Department before being drafted in May 1968 / Carl Lawrence Dinunzio, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St Vincent's Cemetery, North Evans, New York

Carl Lawrence Dinunzio, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 28w, Line 10

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

(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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: DOCKERY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROOSEVELT

G.

Address: 616 SOUTH DIVISION STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT MEDICAL 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:

Corporal Roosevelt George "Doc" Dockery honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Roosevelt Dockery was deployed to Vietnam on 6 October 1969 as a Medical Corpsman / CPL Roosevelt Dockery was Killed In Action on 4 February 1970 while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile enemy force in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Roosevelt Dockery graduated from East High School in Buffalo / Dockery also attended Erie County Technical Institute prior to entering military service / Roosevelt George Dockery was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Roosevelt George Dockery is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 100

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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 Medical Badge (CMB) is an award of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945 / Any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of colonel or below, who is assigned or attached to a ground combat arms unit of brigade or smaller size which provides medical support during any period in which



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

the unit was engaged in ground combat is eligible for the CMB / According to the award criterion, the individual must be performing medical duties while simultaneously being engaged by the enemy; strict adherence to this requirement and its interpretation (e.g., distant mortar rounds vs. direct small arms fire) will vary by unit

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DONOHUE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WILLIAM

E.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, M COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William Edmond Donohue honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC William Donohue was deployed to Vietnam on 2 January 1968 as a Mortarman / PFC William Donohue was Killed In Action on 27 January 1968 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire at Mike's Hill, Route 9 at Cam Lo River, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of 27 January 1968, elements of the 320 NVA launched an attack on positions of the 4th Marines along Route 9, Mikes Hill, and including the Battalion CP (Command Post) in the Cam Lo District of Quang Tri Province / Heavy fighting went on for several days with numerous losses both to the Marines and their aggressors, the NVA / One of the casualties during the battles was Private First-Class William Edmond Donohue who was killed in action as a result of a gunshot wound from hostile rifle fire / Private First-Class William Donohue was in Vietnam for 25 before he died

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Donohue attended South Park High School / William Donohue enlisted in the US Marine Corps on 27 July 1967 in Buffalo / William Edmond Donohue was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York

William Edmond Donohue is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35e, Line 45

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

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

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

The Combat Action Ribbon is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DOSTER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

HENRY

J.

Address: 835 WOODLAWN AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Henry James Doster honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Henry Doster was deployed to Vietnam in September 1965 and served as a Rifleman / CPL Henry Doster was Killed In Action on 5 March 1966 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire at Chau Ngai east of Hill 50, Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 4 March 1966, Operation UTAH was launched under the command of Task Force Delta in the Son Thinh District of Quang Ngai Province where the Marines would encounter elements of the 21st NVA Regiment / Mike Company was helicoptered into the operations area on the evening of 4 March and the Marines moved forward on their search and destroy mission at first light on 5 March / With little contact in the morning hours, Company M got heavily engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Chau Nhay by 1100 hours with the battle continuing into the afternoon / The NVA troops "occupied classic defensive positions, were well-armed and equipped, and defended occupied positions in strength" / The Marines engaged and aggressively assaulted the enemy fortified positions and by approximately 1330 hours were able to penetrate the enemy positions which came at a cost of fifteen Marines killed and forty-six wounded in the action / Enemy resistance slackened with nightfall and when the Marines began again after daybreak on 06 March they found the NVA had withdrawn / The position turned out to be an extensive tunnel and underground bunker complex for the NVA 21st Regiment / The action on 05 March cost the Marines 43 dead / Mike 3/1 had fifteen of the Americans killed in action and forty-six wounded on 05 March / Corporal Henry James Doster was one of the casualties, he was killed in action from a hostile



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

gunshot wound in his chest

Corporal Henry Doster was stationed at various bases in Europe before deploying to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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:

Henry Doster attended Public School 59 and 26 / Doster graduated from Genesee-Humboldt Junior High School and attended Seneca Vocational High School, leaving school in his Junior year to enlist in the US Marine Corps on 11 April 1963 in Buffalo / Henry James Doster was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Henry James Doster is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05e, Line 115

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

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

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

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese 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 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DOUGHER**
THOMAS E.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 1095 PARKHURST BOULEVARD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Thomas Edward Dougher honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Thomas Dougher was deployed to Vietnam on 11 December 1965 as a Light Weapons Infantry / SP4 Dougher successfully completed his 1-year tour and signed up for an additional 6 month extension / Specialist Fourth-Class Thomas Dougher was Killed In Action on 30 April 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

There was an incident when SP4 Thomas E. "Dog" Dougher volunteered to be lowered head first into an enemy bunker armed only with a flashlight and .45 caliber pistol / There was an exchange of gunfire in the hole and Dougher was pulled out by his ankles / Dougher had wounded one of the NVA combatants / As his platoon prepared to grenade the bunker, Dougher convinced his mates to let him try and bring out the NVA alive and he did / Dougher risked his own life to save the lives of two strangers, two enemy combatants, two people who had just shot at him / In a time of war, Dougher chose to save lives rather than take them

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Dougher attended Kenmore East Senior High School / Thomas Edward Dougher was 22 years old at the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Thomas Edward Dougher is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18e, Line 120

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DRAY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DONALD

B.

Address: 375 CRESCENT AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD PLATOON, COMPANY A, 3RD RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION, 3RD MARINE DIVISION,
THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADG

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Donald Barry Dray honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Donald Dray was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC Donald Dray was Killed In Action on 14 September 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

This was the second deployment to Vietnam for PFC Donald Barry / Barry had previously served an 18 month deployment in Vietnam, receiving a Purple Heart for injuries suffered in combat action

The Brother-In-Law of PFC Donald Dray, PFC Carmen Cartonia, was Killed In Action on 4 November 1966 as a result of small arms fire during hostile enemy action Near Dau Tieng, Tay Ninh province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Barry Dray was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lakeview Memorial Park, Greensboro, North Carolina



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Donald Barry Dray is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 70

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

The 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion (3rd Recon) conducts amphibious and ground reconnaissance in support of the 3rd Marine Division and Marine Forces Pacific (MarForPac), operating in the commander's areas of influence / The Battalion is based out of Camp Schwab, a satellite base of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler / The 3rd Recon Battalion consists of approximately 450 Marines and Fleet Marine Force sailors that falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force / The first U.S. combat units that landed during the Vietnam War were Marine units / On 8 March 1965 the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at Red Beach, Da Nang to secure Da Nang Air Base and establish an effective beachhead / Within the original landing force, a platoon from Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion attached to Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines became the first division reconnaissance element to be "resident" in South Vietnam / On 4 June 1969, the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion lost an entire 6 man recon team, call sign "Flight Time" / No other full team was lost during the remaining six years of the Vietnam War / The last elements of the battalion left South Vietnam on 20 November 1969

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DUNCAN**
LEON

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 109 SYCAMORE STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

124TH TRANSPORT BATTALION, 8TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP, 64TH TRANSPORTATION
COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private Leon Timothy Duncan honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Leon Duncan was deployed to Vietnam on 13 May 1968 as a Heavy Vehicle Driver / Private Leon Duncan died on 17 June 1969 from illness, pulmonary congestion (non-hostile action) in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

PVT Leon Duncan was stationed in Germany prior to his deployment to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leon Duncan graduated from St. Mary's School and attended Boy's Vocational High School / Leon Timothy Duncan was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Leon Timothy Duncan is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22w, Line 64

The Transportation Corps is a combat service support branch of the U.S. Army / It is responsible for the movement of personnel and material by truck, rail, air, and sea / It is one of three U.S. Army logistics branches, the others being the Quartermaster Corps and the Ordnance Corps



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 8th Transportation Group was formed on 9 December 1943, at Fort Lawton, Washington / It was originally called the 8th Traffic Regulation Group / After training in Washington, the group was transferred to the European Theater of Operations, where it served in northern France and the Rhineland campaigns / In June 1946 it was deactivated at Reims, France / The unit was reactivated on 15 October 1949, and served with Army units in Germany throughout the 1950s / In June 1966, the 8th Transportation Group was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, when it was notified of its impending movement to Vietnam / The 8th Transportation Group's involvement in the war began in October 1966, as America's activity in Vietnam increased and intensified / The 8th Transportation Group, which had the 27th, 54th and 124th Transportation battalions under its command, was in Qui Nhon / In the fall of 1967, the 57th and 159th Transportation battalions were also assigned to Qui Nhon as part of the 4th Transportation Command / The 8th Transportation Group and its three battalions would bear the brunt of the ambushes around An Khe / Their mission was to provide logistical support from the port at Qui Nhon to the various American and allied units in the II Corps area / Their main customers were the 1st Air Cav at An Khe, the provincial capital of Pleiku in the Central Highlands, and a Republic of Korea army base located at Song Cau

The 64th Transportation Company was constituted 1 May 1936 in the Regular Army as Company A, 1st Battalion, 29th Quartermaster Regiment / It was activated 1 June 1941 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and reorganized and redesignated 20 August 1943 as Company A, 1st Battalion, 29th Quartermaster Truck Regiment / It reorganized and redesignated 1 April 1954 as the 64th Transportation Company and was inactive 1 June 1955 on Okinawa, after the Korean war / It was reactivated 27 August 1955 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and inactivated 19 February 1962 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, this was the only time that the unit would support a peace time mission / The 64th activated once again on 26 March 1963 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to serve during the Vietnam War until it was inactivated 16 June 1971 in Vietnam

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DYCKOWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

R.

Address: 32 KERMIT AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: LT COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH AIR FORCE, 366TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING, 421ST TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Raymond Dyczkowski honorably served in the United States Air Force / While a member of the Air Force Reserves, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Raymond Dyczkowski was accepted for pilot training and subsequently deployed to Vietnam for two tours as a Tactical Fighter Pilot / LT COL Robert Dyczkowski was Killed In Action on 23 April 1966 when his fighter plane was shot down over Quang Nam Province, North Vietnam / Lt Col Robert Dyczkowski was on this 99th mission when he disappeared

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Dyczkowski was a member of the 421st Tactical Fighter Squadron, Korat Air Base, Thailand / On 23 April 1966, he was the pilot of a Thunderchief Fighter (F-105D) on a mission 75 miles north of Hanoi, North Vietnam, when his aircraft was shot down by hostile fire / LT COL Dyczkowski was listed as missing in action for 12 years / In 1978, the military changed his designation to "presumed killed in action, body not recovered"

Between 1988 and 1999, joint investigative teams gained access to the Viet Bac Museum, where they reviewed records and artifacts correlating to this aircraft's loss; investigators also surveyed alleged burial and crash site locations / Their findings later led investigators to reexamine human remains that the Vietnamese government had repatriated in 1977 / On 20 September 2000, modern forensic techniques were able to identify Lieutenant Colonel Dyczkowski from these remains



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

For nearly 35 years, Colonel Dyczkowski remained Missing in Action / In a poignant ceremony held on 6 April 2001, at Arlington Cemetery, his remains were finally repatriated / The 421st Fighter Squadron, also known as the Black Widows, paid their last respects / As a formation of F-16 Fighting Falcons soared above Arlington, one of the Falcons pulled away from the others, a symbolic tribute to those left behind and to Colonel Dyczkowski himself / The missing man formation, specifically designed to honor military members who sacrificed their lives for their country, was a fitting farewell to this brave aviator

Base Assignments:

Korat AFB, Thailand - Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base is a base of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) in northeast Thailand, approximately 125 miles northeast of Bangkok / During the Vietnam War, from 1962 to 1975, Korat RTAFB was a front-line facility of the United States Air Force (USAF) in Thailand / By 1967, Korat RTAFB was home to as many as 34 American operating units and about 6,500 USAF airmen

Miscellaneous:

Robert Dyczkowski attended St. Mary's Parochial School and Burgard Vocational High School, where he became a member of the Civil Air Patrol, receiving his commission and pilot wings / Robert Dyczkowski was 33 years old at the time of his passing / The remains of Robert Raymond Dyczkowski were interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia on 6 April 2001, 35 years after his death during a bombing mission over North Vietnam

Robert Raymond Dyczkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06e, Line 129

The 366th Fighter Wing (366 FW) is a fighter wing of the United States Air Force Air Combat Command stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho / The wing comprises four groups: the 366th Operations Group, 366th Maintenance Group, 366th Mission Support Group and 366th Medical Group / In March 1966, HQ 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, the 389th TFS and various support units of the wing entered the Vietnam War and were reassigned to Phan Rang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam as the base host organization / Missions then flown by the 366th TFW consisted generally of two types, MiG-CAP patrols to protect strike aircraft from attack by marauding North Vietnamese fighters and fighter-bomber strikes carried out with iron bombs against ground targets / The MiG patrols and attacks in North Vietnam were taken over by the F-4s and F-105s based in Thailand, which could carry a larger bomb load further and faster / The 366th TFW was inactivated on 31 October 1972, and activated the same day without personnel or equipment at Mountain Home Air Force Base

The 421st Fighter Squadron is part of the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah / The squadron is one of the most decorated fighter squadrons in the United States Air Force, being awarded three Presidential Unit Citations and seven Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards for Valor in Combat / The squadron's nickname "Black Widows" is derived from its World War II combat heritage of flying the Northrop P-61 Black Widow night fighter, the only dedicated night fighter produced by the United States during the war / Equipped with Republic F-105 Thunderchiefs, it deployed to Southeast Asia and engaged in combat operations over North Vietnam / It returned to the United States and was re-equipped with the McDonnell F-4D Phantom II and returned to Southeast Asia for a second and later third tour of duty in the Vietnam War / It was one of the first USAF squadrons equipped with the F-16A Fighting Falcon in 1980; and went on to serve in the 1991 Gulf War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **EDDY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RICHARD

N.

Address: 41 DONA STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Nelson Eddy honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Eddy was deployed to Vietnam on 3 October 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Richard Eddy was Killed In Action on 27 December 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam

Operation "Bolling" was a search and destroy and security operation conducted by the U.S. 503rd Infantry Regiment in Phu Yen Province, RVN, from 19 September 1967 to 31 January 1969. The objective of "Bolling" was to locate and destroy the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 95th Regiment, which was believed to be in a base area known as "The Hub" in the foothills northwest of Tuy Hoa / The operation began uneventfully; however, in late December an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit had been ambushed in the Ky Lo Valley, twenty-seven miles northwest of Tuy Hoa / A scout platoon from 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry was inserted there on December 27th / The platoon came under heavy fire after landing, and the remainder of the battalion was deployed in the area to engage the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) force / Company A landed at noon near the hamlet of Xom Dap, one mile south of the initial contact area in a 200-yard by 50-yard landing zone surrounded by hedges and trees / NVA forces in bunkers around the landing zone immediately opened fire on the company, killing and wounding numerous Americans and destroying one helicopter / Company A fought back, calling in air and artillery support / They formed a perimeter, cleared the surrounding wood lines of snipers, and gradually began to destroy the NVA bunkers on the east side of the landing zone during intense fighting / At approximately 3:30 PM, the NVA (estimated to be company-sized) broke contact when a reaction force from



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

4/503rd Infantry was landed nearby / Sixty-two NVA were killed with the loss of fourteen Americans lives / Included in the American casualties was Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Nelson Eddy / Thirty-four U.S. soldiers were wounded in the contact / Fighting continued throughout the night as enemy units conducted hand grenade and harassing attacks against different company perimeters set in overnight positions

Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Eddy was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

SP4 Eddy was awarded the Purple Heart when he was deployed to the Dominican Republic

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Richard Eddy graduated from School 33 and joined the U.S. Army in 1963 / Richard Nelson Eddy was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Richard Nelson Eddy is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32e, Line 71

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 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II; at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in Okinawa, Japan; and in Germany. Regimental elements have been assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, the 11th Airborne Division, the 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / In May 1965, two battalions of the 503rd Infantry deployed as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Vietnam as the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed, joined later by 4-503rd Inf and 3-503rd Inf / During its six years in Vietnam, the four battalions of the 503rd participated in fourteen campaigns, earning two more Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 3rd Battalion, 503rd was relieved and reactivated as 3rd-187th 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and on 14 January 1972 reassigned to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

ten from Vietnam, and three from Afghanistan

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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Richard Nelson Eddy was also awarded:

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ELLIS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: SPRINGVILLE

JOHN

M.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

7TH SEPARATE BULK FUEL COMPANY, SUPPLY BATTALION, 1ST FORCE SERVICE REGIMENT,
FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND

THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal John Michael Ellis honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL John Ellis was deployed to Vietnam on 29 December 1968 as a Bulk Fuel Specialist / LCpl John Ellis died through non-hostile action (drowning or suffocating) on 10 July 1969 in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Michael Ellis was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Cemetery, Springville, New York

John Michael Ellis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21w, Line 92

The 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company was activated in April 1983 / The 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, part of the 1st Marine Logistics Group, plays a crucial role in providing general engineering support to the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) / Their responsibilities included mobility, counter-mobility, survivability enhancements, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and general supply support, including handling, storage, and distribution of bulk water and fuel / Between 1965 and 1967, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company served as part of the III Marine Amphibious Force stationed in Vietnam / During their service, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Co. dispensed over 76 million gallons of petroleum products from fuel points throughout Military Region-1 (MR-1), Vietnam



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **EMERY JR**
CHARLES

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1ST LT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND VIETNAM (MACV), ADVISORY TEAM 80

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant Charles Henry Emery, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Charles Emery was deployed to Vietnam on 28 September 1968 as a Training Officer / 1Lt Charles Emery, Jr. was Killed In Action on 28 September 1969 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in An Xugen Province, South Vietnam / First Lieutenant Emery had been in Vietnam for exactly one year

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Emery was a graduate of Buffalo State College / Charles Henry Emery, Jr. Was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York

Charles Henry Emery, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 17w, Line 15

Advisory Team 80 was a unit within the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) during the Vietnam War / These advisory teams played a crucial role in supporting and training South Vietnamese forces / Specifically, Team 80 operated in Camou, a location deep in the Mekong Delta / Their mission was to directly assist District Advisory Teams, which were remotely stationed alongside South Vietnamese forces / Advisory team 80 worked



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

tirelessly to enhance the capabilities of their counterparts, foster cooperation, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the allied efforts during the Vietnam War

The U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense, composed of forces from the United States Army, United States Navy, and United States Air Force, as well as their respective special operations forces / MACV was created on 8 February 1962, in response to the increase in United States military assistance to South Vietnam / MACV was first implemented to assist the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Vietnam, controlling every advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam / It was reorganized on 15 May 1964 and absorbed MAAG Vietnam to its command when combat unit deployment became too large for advisory group control / MACV was disestablished on 29 March 1973 and replaced by the Defense Attaché Office (DAO), Saigon / The DAO performed many of the same roles of MACV within the restrictions imposed by the Paris Peace Accords until the Fall of Saigon

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ERENSTOFT

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CLARENCE

DAVID

K.

Address: 4217 SUSAN DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 52ND AVIATION BATTALION, 17TH AVIATION GROUP, 155TH AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Warrant Officer David Karl Erenstoft honorably served in the United States Army / WO David Erenstoft was deployed to Vietnam on 04 January 1970 as a Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO David Erenstoft died on 8 March 1970 when his helicopter crashed in Quang Duc Province, South Vietnam

On 8 March 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 68-15540) from the 155th Assault Helicopter Company was the lead aircraft in a group of four helicopters carrying an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Special Forces team during an insertion operation / The mission began at Ban Me Thuot and was headed to Duc Lap when thick, foggy conditions were encountered / Visibility was very poor, and the flight had to follow a narrow road cut out of the trees while flying under clouds at about 50 feet off the ground / They were flying fast (between 50–70 knots airspeed) to avoid hostile groundfire / The third helicopter, piloted by WO Erenstoft with three other crewman, was communicating with the lead flight when they suddenly stopped responding / The three other aircraft continued and completed the flight / While returning to base, they found the crashed helicopter after visualizing a column of smoke rising from the jungle / A medivac was sent to the scene where a single ARVN survivor was found / The survivor reportedly told U.S. Army officials that they either got too high in the fog, or the helicopter lowered to the ground, causing the pilot to bank right, then left, then hit a tree

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

David Erenstoft attended the Park School and was a graduate of Amherst Central High School / Erenstoft completed a year at Norwich University, Vermont before enlisting in the U.S. Army on 8 January 1969 / David Karl Erenstoft was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Karl Erenstoft is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 96

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

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

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: EVANS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

PAUL

M.

Address: 40 KOPERNICK

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Paul Michael Evans honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Paul Evans was deployed to Vietnam on 16 June 1968 as a Rifleman / LCPL Paul Evans was Killed In Action on 4 January 1969 as a result of friendly fire (artillery rocket) in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During a patrol on 4 January 1969, 2 kilometers northwest of Nui Dat Son (Hill 55), the Marines were hit with enemy small arms fire and began to pursue two Viet Cong towards the hamlet of Le Son / The pursuing Marines were mistaken for the enemy and several rounds of 60mm mortar fire from a Marine position were directed at the men resulting in one Marine being wounded and LCPL Paul Evans killed by shrapnel

Camp Evans was established by the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines in late 1966 as part of Operation Chinook / The camp was located to the west of Highway 1, approximately 24 km northwest of Hue in Thua Thien-Hue Province / The camp was named after Marine Lance Corporal Paul Evans who was killed during Operation Chinook

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Evans enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 29 December 1967 in Buffalo / Paul Michael Evans was 19 years



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Paul Michael Evans is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35w, Line 33

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: FARRELL

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WILLIAM

P.

Address: 198 OAKMONT AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/"V" DEVICE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/"V" DEVICE

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William Peter Farrell honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Farrell was deployed to Vietnam on 1 September 1967 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / PFC William Farrell was Killed In Action on 10 December 1967 during a combat operation some 9 kilometers south of Tam Quan in Binh Dinh Province

On 10 December 1967, Company "D" engaged the enemy in the vicinity of the My An hamlet / During the ensuing fire fight, a NVA sniper was in the trees above the company and hit PFC William Farrell in the chest, killing him instantly

Fourteen 50th Infantry men were killed in the Battle of Tam Quan, which was the major battle of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's "Operation Pershing" on the coastal Bong Son Plains in and around Binh Dinh Province

Private First-Class William Peter Farrell was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone / PFC Farrell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 10 December 1967, while serving as a rifleman with Company D, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry during a combat mission near Bong Son, Republic of Vietnam / When his unit came under intense hostile fire and sustained several casualties, Private First-Class Farrell, though wounded himself, moved through the enemy fire to carry his injured comrades to safety / While returning to his vehicle, Private First-Class Farrell was mortally wounded



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Farrell graduated from Bishop Turner High School and worked at the Western Electric Company before entering the Army / William Peter Farrell was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

William Peter Farrell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 73

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

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

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry served in Vietnam from 22 September 1967 to 13 December 1970 in II Corps (Central Highlands), providing combat power to major unit, when and where it was most needed / At times we were attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 173d Airborne Brigade and 1st Field Force Vietnam

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **FARRELL JR**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ALBERT

J.

Address: 64 LILAC STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Albert James Farrell, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Albert Farrell was deployed to Vietnam on 5 February 1970 as a Rifleman / PFC Albert Farrell died on 12 March 1970 from a reported accidental self-inflicted injury in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

After finishing his night watch PFC Albert Farrell, Jr. went to his bunker, at Hill 22, 4 kilometers southeast of Tuy Loan Bridge to have breakfast and was having coffee when he picked by an M79 that belonged to another Marine and loaded a live round into the chamber / Albert pointed the M79 with his finger on the trigger at the Marine who told Albert to stop pointing the weapon at him / Albert reversed the M79 with his fingers on the trigger and looked down the bore of the M79 which discharged killing Albert / Cause of death was listed as Accidental Self Destruction

Another account states that PFC Farrell died when his .45-caliber pistol accidentally fired when he jumped for cover during an enemy attack

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East during World War II

Miscellaneous:

Albert Farrell left Emerson High School after his Junior year to join the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968 / Albert James Farrell, Jr. was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Albert James Farrell, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 117

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: FASSEL

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GARY

C.

Address: 46 ALBERT AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Gary Carl Fassel honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Gary Fassel was deployed to Vietnam on 14 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantry / CPL Gary Fassel was Killed In Action on 27 May 1969 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire when his patrol was ambushed at Vic Kontum River and LZ (landing zone) Nicole, Kontum Province, South Vietnam

The 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry lost eight men, including its Commanding Officer, in engagements at LZ Nicole and on the Kontum River on 27 May 1969

CPL Gary Carl Fassel was featured in the 27 June 1969 LIFE magazine cover story entitled "The Faces of the American Dead in Vietnam: One Week's Toll" / Killed in the same action were Commanding Officer LTC Robert H. Carter, Morganton, NC; SP5 Kenneth M. Seward, Greeley, CO; SSG James Francis, Napa, CA; CPL Keith E. Bibson, Grand Rapids, MI; CPL Carey L. Grubbs, Torrance, CA; SP4 Harold J. Warmsley, Dallas, TX; and, PFC Matthew T. Tozano, San Antonio, TX

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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 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:

Gary Fassel graduated from All Saints School and Riverside High School in 1966 / Fassel was a Business Machine Operator for Blue Cross of Western New York before being drafted into the U.S. Army on 19 June 1968 / Gary Carl Fassel was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Gary Carl Fassel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 24w, Line 116

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Terrorism

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: FENNESSEY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DAVID

L.

Address: 114 NORTH LEGION DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant David Lee Fennessey honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT David Fennessey was deployed to Vietnam on 13 April 1967 as an Infantry Operations and Intelligence Specialist / SSGT David Fennessey was Killed In Action on 20 May 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

David Fennessey attended St. Teresa's School in South Buffalo / David Lee Fennessey was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Lee Fennessey is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 20e, Line 56

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers") is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United States Army / Activated in 1915, as the 173rd Infantry Brigade, the unit saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed to South Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The brigade returned to the United States in 1972, where the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, were absorbed into the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery was reassigned to Division Artillery in the 101st / The remaining units of the 173rd were inactivated

The 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II; at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in Okinawa, Japan; and in Germany. Regimental elements have been assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, the 11th Airborne Division, the 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / In May 1965, two battalions of the 503rd Infantry deployed as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Vietnam as the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed, joined later by 4-503rd Inf and 3-503rd Inf / During its six years in Vietnam, the four battalions of the 503rd participated in fourteen campaigns, earning two more Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 3rd Battalion, 503rd was relieved and reactivated as 3rd-187th 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and on 14 January 1972 reassigned to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II, ten from Vietnam, and three from Afghanistan

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

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

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

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

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **FLANIGAN II**
THOMAS F.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

Address: 81 NASSAU AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 164TH AVIATION GROUP, 221ST AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR 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:

Lieutenant Thomas F. Flanigan, II honorably served in the United States Army / LT Thomas Flanigan was deployed to Vietnam on 7 April 1968 as a Fixed Wing Aviation Unit Commander (Pilot) / Lieutenant Thomas Flanigan died of an air crash on land (non-hostile action) on 15 September 1968 when his aircraft and another went down in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam

While serving in Vietnam, Lieutenant Thomas Flanigan, II was awarded a Commendation Certificate from the Republic of South Vietnam for reconnaissance flying / In July 1968, LT Flanigan discovered an enemy location and directed operation troops to advance / Five Viet Cong soldiers were killed in action, three prisoners of war captured and a special cache of munitions seized

Lieutenant Thomas F. Flanigan, II was posthumously promoted to Captain

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Flanigan attended St. Paul's School / Flanigan attended Cardinal Dougherty High School for two years, transferring and graduating from Kenmore West Senior High School / Thomas graduated from Canisius College in 1966 with a degree in Accounting / Flanigan entered the U.S. Army shortly after college graduation / Thomas F.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Flanigan, II was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Thomas F. Flanigan, II is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44w, Line 62

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 164th Aviation Group is a former group of the United States Army that was operational during the Vietnam War as part of the 1st Aviation Brigade / It was constituted 20 December 1967 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 164th Aviation Group, and activated in Vietnam / It was officially formed on 1 February 1968

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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

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **FOLEY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CLARENCE

BRIAN

R.

Address: 9303 HUNTING VALLEY ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Brian Robert Foley honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Brian Foley was deployed to Vietnam on 4 December 1970 as an Infantry Operations and Intelligence Specialist / SSG Brian Foley was Killed In Action on 7 February 1971 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam

At approximately 1600 hours on 6 February 1971, elements of 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, were inserted into the Nui Be Mountains in III Corps, a region known as the Iron Triangle in Binh Duong Province, RVN / The objective was to run patrols and seek out the NVA over the next several days / The 33rd NVA Division in the area, however, had no misgivings about letting the Americans know they were there, and that night began banging on pots, smoking marijuana, and making all manners of noise / They probed the U.S. position after dark, keeping everyone on edge / At daybreak, Blackfoot Platoon was sent into the area of noise where they came upon a blue communications wire laid out in a ravine / The find was reported to the company CO (commanding officer) who admonished them not to follow the wire as it was an ambush / For reasons unknown, the lieutenant leading the patrol decided to follow the wire and he was the first to be killed in the ambush / A reaction platoon was sent in to aid the besieged patrol and a seventeen-hour firefight ensued / More troops were sent in, but the thick jungle and rugged terrain delayed their arrival / Six members of B Company, 2/8th were lost in the engagement, including Staff Sergeant Brian Robert Foley / The other five members of B Company who were Killed In Action were SSGT Bruce A. Van Dam, 1LT Thomas P. King, SGT



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Richard S. Kulwicki, CPL Theodore R. Mason, and SGT Lewis R. Yates

Staff Sergeant Brian Robert Foley attended Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) School before being deployed to Vietnam

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 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

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

Miscellaneous:

Brian Foley was a 1967 graduate of Clarence Central High School and a graduate of New Castle Business School, Pennsylvania / Foley was drafted into the U.S Army in 1969 / Brian Robert Foley was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, New York

Brian Robert Foley is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 83

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **FORKL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HOLLAND

ROBERT

W.

Address: S-8125 CENTER STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND SQUADRON, 1ST CAVALRY, TROOP A

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Wayne Forkl honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Forkl was deployed to Vietnam on 10 August 1967 as a Subsistence Supply Specialist / SP4 Robert Forkl was Killed In Action on 1 January 1968 when he was fatally injured by mortar fragments during an attack on his base in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

On 30 January 1968 the VC's TET Offensive began / The 4th Infantry Division was then stationed in Kontum and Pleiku Provinces in the Central Highlands / The Division lost ten men as a result of the first day's fighting around Kontum City, including Specialist Fourth Class Robert Wayne Forkl / By the time Kontum City was declared secure on 08 February 1968, 33 Americans had been killed in the fighting

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Forkl graduated from Holland Central School in 1965 / Forkl entered the U.S Army on 29 September 1966 / Robert Wayne Forkl was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Griffins Mills Cemetery, Griffins Mills, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Robert Wayne Forkl is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35e, Line 70

In the U.S. Army, a Subsistence Supply Specialist plays a crucial role in ensuring the availability and proper handling of food supplies for military personnel / Ensures the wholesomeness and safe storage and issue of subsistence items; assists in the collection and consolidation of ration requisitions; provides and ensures accountability and storage of subsistence items before distribution to requesting units; unloads and uploads rations using MHE and manual methods; ensures stored rations are properly segregated and maintained according to established guidelines; maintains serviceability of assigned equipment

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **FRANTZ**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EAST AURORA

MAXWELL

S.

Address: 472 BRIGGS PLACE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HN

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Hospitalman Maxwell Stowell Frantz honorably served in the United States Navy / HN Maxwell Frantz was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospitalman and was attached to the Marine Medical Corps in Da Nang, South Vietnam / HN Maxwell Frantz was Killed In Action on 22 July 1966 from Multiple Fragmentation Wounds suffered in combat action in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Maxwell Frantz was a graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania / Maxwell Stowell Frantz was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, New York

Maxwell Stowell Frantz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09e, Line 56

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GALLERY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: AMHERST

RICHARD

M.

Address: 112 STEVENSON BOULEVARD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Richard Mulroy Gallery honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Richard Gallery was deployed to Vietnam on 8 February 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Richard Gallery was Killed In Action on 2 May 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat with a hostile enemy force in Ni Ha 7km west-northwest of Cua Viet River, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

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:

Richard Gallery graduated from Saint Benedict Grammar School / Gallery was a 1965 graduate of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and completed his sophomore year at Canisius College prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army in August 1967 / Richard Mulroy Gallery was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt Olivet



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Richard Mulroy Gallery is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 54e, Line 7

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

The 21st Infantry Regiment ("Gimlet") is a United States Army infantry regiment / The 1st Battalion currently exists as part of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division / The regiment fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom / Task Force Smith, the first American unit to see action in the Korean War, was derived from the regiment's 1st Battalion / The 3rd Battalion of the regiment was activated on 10 September 1965 at Fort Devens / It was subordinated to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade / On 26 August 1966, it was sent to South Vietnam / The brigade was attached to the 25th Infantry Division and was based at Tây Ninh / 3rd Battalion fought in Operation Attleboro between September and November 1966 / In January 1967, the battalion participated in Operation Cedar Falls / Between February and April, it participated in Operation Junction City / The 196th was then transferred to Chu Lai / On 15 July 1969, it was attached to the 23rd Infantry Division until that division's withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971 / The



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

3rd Battalion then formed Task Force Gimlet, patrolling the "rocket belt" around Da Nang / From 5 to 11 August 1972, Delta Company, 3/21st Infantry undertook the last patrol by U.S. troops in the war with two soldiers wounded by booby traps / The unit was relieved by South Vietnamese soldiers / The battalion was withdrawn from South Vietnam on 23 August 1972 and inactivated in Oakland on the same day

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GAPINSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

V.

Address: 151 CRESTHAVEN

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

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 Robert Victor Gapinski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert Gapinski was deployed to Vietnam on 25 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Robert Gapinski died on 8 July 1969 as a result of drowning while on a military mission in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Robert Gapinski was a graduate of Amherst Central High School / Gapinski attended Paul Smiths College before getting drafted into the U.S. Army on 26 August 1968 / Robert Victor Gapinski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary, Cheektowaga, New York

Robert Victor Gapinski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21w, Line 82



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

Since the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, three regiments have held the designation 28th Infantry Regiment / The first was a provisional unit that was constituted on 29 January 1813 and served during The War of 1812 / The second was a reorganization and redesignation of 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment on 1 October 1866 for the American Indian Wars / This incarnation of the 28th Infantry Regiment lasted until 15 March 1869, when it was consolidated back into the 19th Infantry Regiment / The third version of the 28th Infantry Regiment is the one that has the permanent designation and history / In 1965, the 1st and 2nd Battalions were deployed to South Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division / The 2nd Battalion was badly mauled during the Battle of Ong Thanh in October 1967 / Early 1970 saw the end of the participation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 28th Infantry in Vietnam / After almost 5 years of combat in South Vietnam, the colors of both battalions were re-deployed to Fort Riley

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GERSPACH III**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EGGERTSVILLE

PETER

J.

Address: 19 MEADOW LEA DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Peter Joseph Gerspach, III honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Peter Gerspach was deployed to Vietnam on 3 May 1967 as an Infantryman, assigned to a Green Beret unit / SP4 Peter Gerspach was Killed In Action on 25 May 1967 as a result of hostile enemy small arms fire in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 25 May 1967, during Operation MALHEUR, the 1st Battalion fought several engagements with the enemy several kilometers southeast of Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province / During the fire fights nine men were killed in action, one of the casualties was SP4 Peter Gerspach who was killed by hostile small arms fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter Gerspach was a 1964 graduate of Seneca Vocational High School / Gerspach enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1966 / Peter Joseph Gerspach, III was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park and Resthaven Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Peter Joseph Gerspach, III is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

at VVM Wall, Panel 20e, Line 102

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

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

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry were deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965, where they were joined by the rest of the division in late 1967 / In October 1968, the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson / The 327th Infantry Regiment has also been deployed in the Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GIARDINA**
STEFANO

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 143 LIVINGSTON AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 20TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Stefano Giardina honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Stefano Giardina was deployed to Vietnam on 20 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Stefano Giardina was Killed In Action on 10 June 1970 as a result of wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat action in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stefano Giardina was born in Italy, immigrating to the United States at the age of 7 years old / Stefano Giardina was a graduate of School 19 and Lafayette High School / Giardina enlisted in the U.S. Army after working for nearly a year at the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors in Tonawanda and Bethlehem Steel Corp in Lackawanna / Stefano Giardina was killed in Vietnam six months after becoming a United States citizen / Stefano Giardina was 21 years old at the time of his passing

Stefano Giardina is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 38



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The 20th Infantry was organized by direction of President Abraham Lincoln on 14 May, 1861 / During the Civil War, The Unit fought under General Sykes' Division of Regulars in some of the bloodiest battles of the conflict. In the Second Battle of Bull Run / the Regiment charged Stonewall Jackson's Brigade with fixed bayonets to cover the retreat of the Union Army / The 20th Infantry fought in the Spanish American War, border patrol in America during World War I and participated in the campaigns of New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II / The main body of the 1st Battalion 20th Light Infantry Battalion shipped out with the 11th Light Infantry Brigade to Republic of Vietnam aboard the USS Gordon and USS Weigel / The 11th Light Infantry Brigade debarked at Oai Nhon on 19 and 22 December 1967 / The 1st Battalion 20th Light Infantry took part in the following Operations: Show Low, Wheeler/Wallowa (the longest running operation of the Vietnam War), Norfolk Victory, Champaign Grove, Logan Field, Vernon Lake II, Iron Mountain (Phases I II III), and Finney Hill / The Battalion conducted combat action against NVA and Main force units as they worked with ARVN Forces in the Pacification Program in their Area of Operation / The 20th Infantry ended their Combat Mission in Vietnam on 4 October 1971 and was deactivated in Fort Lewis

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GIBBS**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

CHARLES

E.

Address: 245 GROTE STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Charles Edward Gibbs honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Charles Gibbs was deployed to Vietnam on 28 February 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Charles Gibbs was Killed In Action after suffering fatal wounds from stepping on a land mine on 6 May 1968 in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Gibbs attended School 73 and Boy's Vocational High School before enlisting in the Marine Corps on 1 June 1967 / Charles Edward Gibbs was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Charles Edward Gibbs is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 56e, Line 7

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 27th Marine Regiment (27th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / They fought during the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II and again for a short time during the Vietnam War / The regiment was inactivated on 10 January 1946 at the end of World War II, after the surrender of Japan / The 27th Marines was again reactivated during the Vietnam War on 1 January 1966, but was mainly used as a pool for new replacements before they went overseas / The 1st Battalion based at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii was the only battalion with personnel assigned in 1966 / On 12 February 1968 in response to the Tet Offensive, the 27th Marine Regiment was deployed to Da Nang, South Vietnam / At the end of March 1968, 1/27th Marines was moved north to provide security of Route 1 between Huế and Phu Bai Combat Base and the protection of Tân Mỹ Base / While the regiment was preparing for its redeployment to the U.S. in August 1968 the Viet Cong launched their Phase III offensive and 1st Battalion participated in the defense of Da Nang Air Base / On 12 September 1968, the first planeload of Regiment Marines left for Okinawa and on 17 September 1968 the last of 1st Battalion, 27th Marines arrived in Hawaii

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GLIM

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

RALPH

T.

Address: 65 LINDEN STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 319TH ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST 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 Ralph Theodore Glim honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Ralph Glim was deployed to Vietnam 10 November 1970 as a Power Generation Equipment Operator-Mechanic / SP4 Ralph Glim was Killed In Action on 17 December 1970 from an accidental explosion in Thua Thien province

Specialist Fourth-Class Ralph Glim maintained the critically important divisional artillery generators / Widely used throughout the division's tactical area of responsibility, they powered the AN/TPS-25 Moving Target Location Radar (MTLR), a transportable battlefield ground surveillance radar which detected the presence of moving targets and supplied range and azimuth information / On 15 December 1970, a little over a month after arriving in Vietnam, SP4 Glim was pulled from his generator maintenance duties to assist in clearing the edges of the perimeter at Camp Evans, a 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division base located to the west of National Route QL-1, approximately 14.4 miles northwest of Hue in Thua Thien Province, RVN / Maintaining clear fields of fire on the perimeters of bases was an urgent matter and enlisted personnel from a variety of units were assigned this duty / At approximately 8:45 AM, SP4 Glim was cutting grass on the bunker line when a dud 40mm M79 grenade round was detonated / He was fatally injured after sustaining metal fragmentation wounds to the chest, neck, and head / SP4 Ralph Glim was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for merit

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Glim was a 1968 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School / Glim was attending Niagara Community College and working at the Chevrolet - Tonawanda Division of General Motors before being drafted into the U.S. Army / Ralph Theodore Glim was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Ralph Theodore Glim is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06w, Line 122

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 2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment ("2-319 AFAR") is the field artillery battalion that is assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Nicknamed "Black Falcons", 2-319 AFAR has participated in battles from World War I to the current day / The 319th Field Artillery participated in three major campaigns during World War I / The 319th participated in all six World War II campaigns of the 82nd Airborne Division, including assault landings in Normandy and the Netherlands / 2-319 deployed to Vietnam with the 101st Division Artillery during Operation Eagle Thrust from 3 December 1967 to 18 December 1967 / The 2-319 AFAR departed Vietnam on 20 December 1971 as part of Increment X of the US Army withdrawal from Vietnam / The 2-319



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

AFAR was inactivated and relieved from assignment to the 101st Airborne Division on 31 July 1972 / It would remain inactive until 1986

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GLOWACKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DANIEL

N.

Address: 109 NORTH OGDEN STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1ST LT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 8TH BATTALION, 6TH ARTILLERY, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant Daniel Norbert Glowacki honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Daniel Glowacki was deployed to Vietnam on 30 January 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 1st LT Daniel Glowacki was killed in a helicopter crash on 4 July 1968 during a reconnaissance mission in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

On 4 July 1968, two U.S. Army OH-6A helicopters from D Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, were involved in a mid-air collision six miles northeast of Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Five persons were killed in the accident, including D Troop's Commanding Officer, Major Frederick G. Terry Jr., and D Troop artillery liaison officer, First Lieutenant Daniel N. Glowacki / Major Terry's mission was to fly the Command and Control OH-6A ship (#67-16018) for the helicopters of D Troop, 1/4 Cav, which were supporting a mechanized infantry (2nd Battalion [Mechanized], 2nd Infantry) / At approximately 8:10 AM, First Lieutenant Raymond Bosworth, Jr. flying an OH-6A helicopter (#66-7854), departed Lai Khe for the same area of operations to serve as Scout Team leader / At 8:50 AM, the command vehicle of company B Company, 2nd Bn (Mech), 2nd Inf, hit a mine injuring five personnel / Major Terry monitored the ground units' call for a "dustoff" medical evacuation helicopter and proceeded to the area / Major Terry also called Lieutenant Bosworth on the radio and requested that he proceed to the same area with his Scout Team / Lieutenant Bosworth entered an area approximately three miles to the east of where the vehicle hit the mine / Meanwhile, Major Terry's helicopter was flying in the same general direction as Lieutenant Bosworth's helicopter but to the left rear and approximately fifty feet higher and descending at a greater speed than Lieutenant Bosworth's helicopter / When Lieutenant Bosworth's



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

helicopter suddenly completed a 180-degree right turn, Major Terry's helicopter overtook it and they collided / Both aircraft crashed to the ground, with Major Terry's helicopter approximately 135 feet from the other aircraft / First Lieutenant Daniel N. Glowacki, Major Frederick G. Terry Jr. and Specialist Larry E. Collier died on impact / First Lieutenant Raymond Bosworth, Jr. and Specialist Fourth-Class Dirk J. Westra perished after their OH-6A caught fire and burned

Daniel Norbert Glowacki received his officer's commission after attending Officers Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

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

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

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Glowacki graduated from Bishop Turner High School in 1963 / Glowacki enlisted in the U.S. Army on 28 February 1966 while a student at the University of Buffalo / Daniel Norbert Glowacki was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel Norbert Glowacki is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53w, Line 10

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three 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 6th Field Artillery Regiment is a Field Artillery Branch regiment of the United States Army first activated in 1907 from numbered companies of artillery / It was first organized with two battalions

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 /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GOLWITZER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RONALD

A.

Address: 861-B LANGFIELD DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 14TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant First-Class Ronald Anthony Golwitzer honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Ronald Golwitzer was deployed to Vietnam on 15 January 1967 as a Tactical Communication Chief / SFC Ronald Golwitzer was Killed In Action on 22 August 1968 from wounds suffered from small arms fire in Gia Dinh province, South Vietnam

On 22 August 1968, Sergeant First-Class Golwitzer was riding in a pedicab in Saigon, South Vietnam when he was shot and killed by a Vietnamese on a motorbike / The assailant disappeared into the traffic

SFC Ronald Golwitzer served in the U.S. Army for nearly 19 years and served in the Korean War in 1950

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Golwitzer was a graduate of Seneca Vocational High School / Ronald Anthony Golwitzer was 39 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Ronald Anthony Golwitzer is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

at VVM Wall, Panel 47w, Line 28

A Tactical Communication Chief in the army plays a crucial role in ensuring effective communication within military units / Tactical communications are military communications in which information of any kind, especially orders and military intelligence, are conveyed from one command, person, or place to another upon a battlefield, particularly during the conduct of combat

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 14th Infantry Regiment ("Golden Dragons") is a United States Army light infantry regiment / It has served in the American Civil War, Boxer Rebellion, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Joint Guard, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Gothic Serpent, Operation New Dawn, Operation Resolute Support, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / The 14th Infantry Regiment did not take part in combat during World War I / It has also conducted peacekeeping and humanitarian missions in the Sinai Peninsula, Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, Bosnia, and Kosovo / In its over four years of combat in Vietnam, the 2nd Battalion received participation credit for 12 of the campaigns of the Vietnam War / The battalion received two awards of the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and one award of the Vietnam Civic Action Medal First Class / On 8 December 1970 the 2nd Battalion left South Vietnam and returned to Schofield Barracks / The battalion was inactivated on 5 June 1972

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GREINER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DONALD

H.

Address: 86 GRANT STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Donald Henry Greiner honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donald Greiner was deployed to Vietnam on 23 September 1968 as an Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Donald Greiner was Killed In Action on 14 November 1968 by small arms fire during combat operations near Da Nang in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Sergeant Donald Henry Greiner was a graduate of the the Non-Commissioned Officer Training School at Ft. Benning, Georgia

Base Assignments:

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

Ft. 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

Miscellaneous:

Donald Greiner was a graduate of Hutchinson Central Technical High School and Erie County Technical Institute / Greiner enlisted in the United States Army in October 1967 / Donald Henry Greiner was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Donald Henry Greiner is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39w, Line 64

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 2nd Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army that has served for more than two hundred years / It was constituted on 12 April 1808 as the 6th Infantry and consolidated with 4 other regiments in 1815 to form the present unit / In September 1965 the First and Second battalions deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vung Tau in October 1965 / From there they proceeded to their assigned areas, Phuoc Vinh for the 1st Battalion and Lai Khe for the 2nd Battalion / The battalions initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon / On 2 January 1967 the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / The 1st Battalion sustained its first major casualties of the war on 21 December 1965 when the enemy ambushed the command group of Company B as the company was moving out of Bien Hoa on routine patrol / On 25 August 1966 during Operation Amarillo a patrol from Company C, 1st Battalion was ambushed after stumbling into a Viet Cong base camp, losing 6 men killed of the 15-man patrol, total US losses in the operation were 41 killed, 45 Viet Cong bodies were found, while later intelligence indicated that Viet Cong losses were 171 men killed / During four and a half years the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bu Dop (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Loc, and An Loc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / Contact with the enemy was almost daily / When the 1st Infantry Division stood down in March and April 1970 the 1st and 2nd Battalion's colors were cased and the soldiers were either reassigned to other units in Vietnam or returned to the United States to be discharged

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: GRIFASI

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

JAMES

A.

Address: 38 CALVIN COURT SOUTH

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant James Anthony Grifasi honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT James Grifasi was deployed to Vietnam 14 September 1969 as an Infantry Operations & Intelligence Specialist / SSG James Grifasi was Killed In Action on 26 March 1970 as a result of small arms fire during a combat operation in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

It was reported that Staff Sergeant James Grifasi was killed when he was mistaken for an enemy combatant / Friendly fire, 3 km W of Tay Ninh Base Camp (Coffelt Database)

SSG James Grifasi was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

SSG James Grifasi was a graduate of the the Non-Commissioned Officer Training School at Ft. Benning, Georgia

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Miscellaneous:

James Grifasi was a 1965 graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / Grifasi attended the State University of Buffalo and the University of Tennessee studying engineering before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968 / James Anthony Grifasi was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James Anthony Grifasi is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12w, Line 46

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

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 22nd Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment of the United States Army / It was deployed to South Vietnam as part of the 2d Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division and conducted operations in the Central Highlands / It was inactivated in August 1984 at Fort Carson, Colorado / Currently the 2nd Battalion is active, with the regimental colors residing at Fort Drum, New York / The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions have been inactivated

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GRZEGOREK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

A.

Address: 217 WILLET STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Andrew Grzegorek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James Grzegorek was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman and was scheduled, with other Marines, to relieve the Marine Corps bastion at Khe Sanh / PFC James Grzegorek was killed on 6 March 1968 when the C-123K #54-0590, that he was a passenger on, was shot down by hostile fire 8 kilometers east of Khe Sanh Combat Base, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 6 March 1968, a U.S. Air Force Fairchild C-123 "Provider" was scheduled to fly to Phu Bai Airfield, South Vietnam, some thirty-nine miles northwest of Da Nang, then on to Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province / Aircraft commander LTC Frederick J Hampton, co-pilot 1LT Ellis E Helgeson, and crew chief SGT Jeffrey F Conlin comprised the crew of the C-123K (serial # 54-0590), Mission # 702 / All members of this aircrew were assigned to the 311th Air Cargo Squadron, 315th Air Cargo Wing, Phan Rang Airbase, South Vietnam and were detached to Da Nang Airbase / Mission # 702 departed Da Nang with its cargo for Phu Bai / After off-loading its cargo was accomplished, the aircraft was subsequently loaded with 43 U.S. Marines bound for Khe Sanh / When Mission # 702 departed Phu Bai Airfield, it carried a total of 51 passengers and crew--43 Marines, 1 Navy corpsman, 1 civilian photographer, 3 U.S. Air Force passengers and the 3-man Air Force aircrew / Once in the vicinity of their destination, LTC Hampton established radio contact with ground control and was cleared to land / He initiated his final approach to Khe Sanh's airfield, but was forced to abort the landing because of a South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) light aircraft that obstructed the runway / The Provider circled around at low altitude to set up for



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

a second approach / However, as it did so, it was hit by enemy ground fire in the port jet engine / LTC Hampton climbed for altitude as he transmitted their situation and reported that he was returning back to DaNang with battle damage / Shortly thereafter, the Provider spiraled into the ground exploding on impact / The crash site was located in extremely rugged jungle-covered mountains that was dotted with small clearings covered with elephant grass and bamboo just a mile southeast of the base's runway, less than a mile east of the closest point along Route 9, and just north of the closest location on the Song Quang Tri River that nearly encircled the loss location / The crash site was also located approximately 14 miles east of the South Vietnamese-Lao border, 58 miles west-northwest of the Phu Bai Airfield and 100 miles northwest of DaNang Airbase / Due to the tactical situation in and around Khe Sanh, ground search parties first reached the aircraft's wreckage on 26 April 1968 to begin the grizzly task of recovering remains / Other search teams returned to the crash site on 24 June and 3 July 1968 respectively / On each occasion, human remains, dog tags, other identification media and personal effects were recovered / All possible human remains and personal affects that were recovered were transported to the U.S. Army mortuary facility at DaNang for the arduous task of identification / Military morticians were able to positively identify less than half of the men aboard the Provider / Those remains were embalmed and returned to each man's family for burial / They included PFC George E. Beale, PFC Willis Beauford Jr., LCPL John H. Clark, 1LT Ellis E. Helgeson Jr., PFC Ralph E. Higgs, PFC Robert J. Horvath, PFC Harry K. Latshaw, CPL Dennis J. Medeiros, PFC Ronnie C. Presley, PVT Domingo Rodriguez Jr., CPL Ronald R. Ryan, CPL James H. Smith Jr., PFC James O. Taylor, LCPL Louis G. Taylor, LCPL Robert L. Vickers, PFC Stephen A. West, PFC David R. Wienckoski, LCPL Hollis Williams Jr., and PFC Thomas H. Williams / Remains of the other personnel on board could not be positively identified, therefore they were returned to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery for group interment on 23 November 1968 / The names include PFC Herbert R. Aldridge, PFC David G. Anderson, SSGT William F. Anselmo, PFC Charles G. Boyer, CPL Joseph P. Brignac, PFC Donald R. Bumstead, PFC George L. Elliott III, PFC Michael D. Gray, PFC James A. Grzegorek, PFC Blucher R. Hall, PFC Paul E. Hicks, PFC Howard E. Hollar, LCPL Andrew Jackson, CPL Larry S. Kennedy, LCPL Thomas MacMillan, PFC Joseph A. Marturano, LCPL Winford McCosar, PFC Dennis M. Mead, PFC James E. Miles, PFC Roger C. Minch, PFC James E. Moore, PFC Thomas J. Moss Jr., PFC Richard J. O'Hare, CPL Vic M. Pizarro, SSGT Noel L. Rios, CPL Samuel P. Robinson, CPL Michael Sears, LCPL Kenneth A. Stanciu, CPL Stanley G. Strong, PFC Daryl B. Terhune, CPL William L. Terrell, HM3 Louis J. Toner, MSGT Howard B. Waldron, and Robert Ellison, a civilian photographer for Newsweek magazine

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Miscellaneous:

James Grzegorek attended St. Casimer Grammer School and graduated from Bishop Ryan High School, Buffalo / Grzegorek was a drum teacher and a member of the Buffalo Bell's Orchestra / James Andrew Grzegorek was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Lemay, Missouri

James Andrew Grzegorek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 43e, Line 19

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **GUCWA**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

J.

Address: 139 BUSH STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, THIRD MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph John Gucwa honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Joseph Gucwa was deployed to Vietnam 8 February 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Joseph Gucwa was Killed In Action on 19 July 1968 as a result of enemy rocket fire hitting his truck in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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:

Joseph Gucwa was a 1967 graduate of Riverside High School / Gucwa enlisted in the Marine Corps on 30 August 1967 / Joseph John Gucwa was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Joseph John Gucwa is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 51w, Line 11

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HALLOWS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HOLLAND

DANIEL

J.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 162ND AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR 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:

Warrant Officer 1 Daniel John Hallows honorably served in the United States Army WO1 Daniel Hallows was deployed to Vietnam 30 March 1970 as a Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO1 Daniel Hallows was killed (non-hostile action) when his helicopter crashed on 23 June 1970 in Phong Dinh Province, South Vietnam

On or about 1805 hours on 23 June 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 67-17594) from the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company, 13th Combat Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade, departed Ca Mau Airstrip enroute to Can Tho AAF, RVN / At approximately 1840 hours the aircraft suffered suspected mechanical failure of the main rotor system / The main rotor blades sheared through the cockpit and the mast sheared just below the main rotor head, separating from the aircraft at an approximate altitude of 1500 feet / The aircraft, with the tail rotor still intact and the engine running, began to spin and impacted the ground with vertical and circular momentum / There were no survivors / The crew included WO1 Lawrence M. Moore (aircraft commander), WO1 Daniel J. Hallows (pilot), SP5 Dennis J. Dillon (crew chief), and PFC James W. Lenz (gunner) / Eight passengers also perished in the crash / They included SN Thomas r. Brown, SN John J. Donnelly III, SM3 John S. Durlin, FN Toby A. Thomas, HM2 Harold L. Linville, BM3 James R. Gore, MM2 Richard J. Solano, and an unnamed civilian

Base Assignments:

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Hallows was a 1968 graduate of Holland Central High School / Hallows entered the Army's Warrant Officer training program to become a helicopter pilot while still attending high school / Daniel Hallows entered the U.S. Army in 1968 / Daniel John Hallows was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, Fort Pierce, Florida

Daniel John Hallows is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C.- Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 83

Helicopter pilots are skilled officers who control and fly the many helicopters operated by the Services / They also perform combat maneuvers, spot and observe enemy positions, transport troops and equipment, and evacuate wounded troops

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HAMMOND**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RICHARD

M.

Address: 209 HOYT STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, TROOP A

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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 Richard Mark Hammond honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Hammond was deployed to Vietnam on 16 October 1966 as an Airborne Qualified General Vehicle Repairman / SP4 Richard Hammond was Killed In Action as a result of small arms fire during combat operations on 18 February 1968 in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

In mid-February 1968, Song Be City came under heavy pressure from Viet Cong forces / An infantry company from 1st Bn, 506th and a reinforced cavalry troop from 2/17 Cav were sent to assist the ARVN forces / During the three days of their involvement (18-20 February), the two units lost seven men, including Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Mark Hammond

SP4 Richard Mark Hammond was on his second duty tour of Vietnam and had received the Purple Heart from wounds sustained in combat action during his first tour of service

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

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

Miscellaneous:

Richard Hammond was a graduate of Lafayette High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute before being drafted in the U.S. Army in April 1966 / Richard Mark Hammond was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Richard Mark Hammond is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 40e, Line 6

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HARLEY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

MICHAEL

N.

Address: 247 NORMAN AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Nathaniel Harley honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Harley was deployed to Vietnam on 15 September 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Michael Harley was Killed In Action on 28 May 1967 as a result of friendly fire in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

PFC Charles E. Johnson, PFC John J. Finnegan, and SP4 Michael N. Harley were assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry / On May 28, 1967, they were in a perimeter defensive position serving as a listening post when a friendly artillery round fell short and landed near their location / All three suffered fatal injuries after being hit by fragments from the exploding shell

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Nathaniel Harley was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Michael Nathaniel Harley is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21e, Line 4



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HEINZ

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: SPRINGVILLE

DENNIS

R.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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:

Corporal Dennis Ralph Heinz served in the United States Army / CPL Dennis Heinz was deployed to Vietnam on 19 December 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Dennis Heinz was Killed In Action on 16 April 1970 as a result of an explosive device during hostile actions in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

During a patrol on 16 April 1970, Corporal Dennis Ralph Heinz was killed by shrapnel when a booby trap was tripped causing an explosion

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Heinz was a 1966 graduate of Griffith Institute and Central School Springfield / Heinz attended Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan and Northern Michigan University in Marquette / Heinz worked at the Agway Inc. Feed Mill in Buffalo before being drafted into the army in July 1969 / Dennis Ralph Heinz was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Cemetery, Springville, New York

Dennis Ralph Heinz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11w, Line 13



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

case posthumously

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HEISER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DUANE

K.

Address: 153 JEWETT AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 18TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Duane Kenneth Heiser honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Duane Heiser was deployed to Vietnam on 22 January 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Private First-Class Duane Heiser was Killed In Action on 15 March 1966 as a results of burns during combat operations in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

On 15 March 1966, PFC Heinz's platoon was clearing a zone for a new base camp when Air Force fighter bombers erroneously dropped fragmentation bombs on his group / His platoon leader yelled to scatter and as they did a second bomb hit / Before he could reach shelter, Heiser was hit by a canister of napalm, an incendiary weapon containing a gelling agent and volatile petrochemical (usually gas or diesel fuel) / PFC Duane Heiser died after sustaining 3rd degree burns to his entire body / The death of PFC Heiser occurred as a consequence of friendly fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Duane Heiser graduated from School # 61 in 1961 and graduated from Bennett High School in 1965 / Heiser was a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol / Duane Heiser enlisted in the Army in 1965 / Duane Kenneth Heiser was 19 years



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Duane Kenneth Heiser is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06e, Line 10

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

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three 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 18th Infantry Regiment ("Vanguards")[1] is an Army Infantry regiment / The 18th Infantry Regiment currently exists with one active battalion under the U.S. Army Regimental System and has no regimental headquarters / 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment's home duty station is located at Fort Riley, Kansas with the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division / It is a combined arms battalion / The 18th Infantry participated in the invasion of Sicily and Normandy during World War II / The 18th Infantry Regiment would experience almost eleven months of continual combat operations from the allied invasion of Normandy (June 6, 1944) to the end of World War II in Europe in May 1945 / Among the many actions that the regiment participated in were Battle of Aachen, Battle of Hürtgen Forest, The Battle of the Bulge and crossing at the Remagen bridgehead 15–16 March 1945

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HENNING**
DOUGLAS A.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address: S-3639 SOUTHWESTERN BOULEVARD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

SILVER STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Private Douglas Allen Henning honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Douglas Henning was deployed to Vietnam on 3 October 1967 as an Indirect Fire Infantryman / PVT Douglas Henning was Killed In Action on 17 July 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

Private Douglas Henning was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for acts of bravery on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

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

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky–Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

Miscellaneous:

Douglas Henning graduated from Orchard Park Senior High School in 1965 where he played varsity football and was a division all-star / Henning worked for a meat packing company prior to entering the U.S. Army in April 1966 / Douglas Allen Henning was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Douglas Allen Henning is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 52w, Line 43

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

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 case posthumously

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HENS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

JOHN

M.

Address: 6511 CONNOR ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 1ST MAW, MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 12

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal John Michael Hens honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL John Hens was deployed to Vietnam 5 November 1965 as a Small Arms Repairer/Technician / CPL John Hens was Killed In Action on 3 October 1966 from an explosive device during combat action in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

While guarding a Medical Assistance mission in Quang Ngai Province, CPL John Hens was killed as a result of a grenade explosion

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Hens was a graduate of DeSales High School in Lockport / Hens was active with the Erie County Saddlehorse 4-H Club / John Hens attended St. Mary's College in San Antonio, Texas before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in December 1963 / John Michael Hens was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Swormville, New York

John Michael Hens is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 40



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

A Small Arms Repairer/Technician in the Marine Corps is responsible for inspecting, maintaining, and repairing all small arms / The job is performed by Privates through Lance Corporals under supervision, and by Corporals through Gunnery Sergeants who also train and supervise others / The small arms repairer/technician performs basic duties incident to inspection, maintenance, and repair of all small arms, less vehicular mounted weapons / At the Corporal through Gunnery Sergeant level, the Small Arms Repairer/Technician performs, trains, and supervises various duties incident to inspection, maintenance, and repair of all small arms, to include vehicular mounted small arms

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

Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) is an active air group of the United States Marine Corps, tasked with providing fighter and assault support aircraft / It is currently part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW), itself an integral part of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and based at MCAS Iwakuni in Japan / The mission of Marine Aircraft Group 12, as the tactical air arm of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, is to conduct air reconnaissance, electronic warfare, antiair warfare, offensive air support, control of aircraft and missiles, and assault support from advanced bases, expeditionary bases or the sea base supported by organic aviation logistics and aviation ground support logistics as required by III MEF and United States Pacific Command and be prepared to conduct such support and engagement operations as may be directed / In May 1965, MAG-12 deployed to Chu Lai, Vietnam, to support Marine infantry and other allied forces in their engagements against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army units / The Group participated in many large operations, including the recapture of Hue City and the relief of besieged units at Khe Sanh / Two more Navy Unit Citations were received as a result of the Group's contribution to the Vietnam War effort / After almost 5 years of combat, MAG-12 was withdrawn from the Republic of Vietnam in February 1970, and reestablished at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan / In May 1972, MAG-12 again deployed to Vietnam and conducted combat operations from Bien Hoa Air Base until finally withdrawing from the war on 29 January 1973 where they were the last American combat aviation unit still in country / MAG-12 then returned to MCAS Iwakuni, where it remains today

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: HENSON

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

THOMAS

G.

Address: 145 WARREN AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Thomas George Henson honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Thomas Henson was deployed to Vietnam on 16 October 1965 as an Armor Crewman / SP4 Thomas Henson was Killed In Action on 12 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in combat action in Ap Bau Bang 4 km North of Lai Khe, Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

The Battle of Ap Bau Bang took place on the morning of 12 November 1965, when two regiments from the Viet Cong 9th Division attacked a night defensive position of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment at a small village by the name of Ap Bau Bang, 15 miles north of Thu Dau Mot in Binh Duong Province, RVN / Early in November, the commander of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 5th Division requested the U.S. 1st Infantry Division to secure Highway 13 north of Lai Khe to cover the movement of the ARVN 7th Regiment, 5th Division for an operation in the Michelin Rubber Plantation / The mission was given to LTC George Shuffer and his 2/2nd Infantry / LTC Shuffer divided Highway 13 into three sectors, each secured by a company, and with the command group, Cavalry, and artillery in the middle sector / Everyday patrols would be sent out to sweep the Highway and its surroundings and then withdraw into night defensive positions / On the night of 11 November 1965, several mortar rounds hit Shuffer's central position, and a night ambush killed two Viet Cong / At 6:05 AM on the morning of November 12th, as Shuffer's forces prepared to start patrolling Highway 13, the Viet Cong launched their attack / Starting with a barrage of 50 mortar rounds, a battalion of Viet Cong attacked from the southwest / The attack was quickly met by return fire from Troop A's M113 armored personnel carriers which



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

broke up the attack / A second attack from the south and a third attack from the southeast were similarly beaten back by the waiting American force / At 7:00 AM, the main attack was launched from the village of Bau Bang to the north and initially succeeded in penetrating the American position before this attack was also repulsed / Battery C used its guns in anti-personnel mode, firing 50 rounds at ground level with two-second fuses / Air strikes by U.S. Air Force A-1H Skyraiders and U.S. Navy A-4 Skyhawks were directed against the Viet Cong mortars and recoilless rifles positioned in and around Bau Bang / At 9:00 AM, the Viet Cong launched a final assault from the north, but were met with concentrated artillery fire and air strikes and by 1:30 PM the Viet Cong had abandoned their attacks and withdrew / Total U.S. casualties were 20 killed and 103 wounded, while Viet Cong losses were 146 killed (body count) and a further 50 were believed to have been killed, but the bodies were removed / The lost Americans included PFC Harold J. Battle, SP4 Allie W. Campbell, PFC Rafael C. Carmona-Medina, PFC Benjamin Castillo-Lima, SSG Joseph R. Dupere, SGT William H. Eaden, SGT Edward P. Ference, PFC Roger L. Floyd, PFC Thomas J. Fox, SP4 Joseph C. Giordano, SP4 Thomas G. Henson, SP4 Charles J. Janke, SP4 Jackie McMillon, PFC Mariner Patrick, PFC Wayne D. Proberts, PFC Rafael Santiago-Cruz, SP4 Raymo Santilli, SP4 Earnest G. Sears, SP5 Eugene Turner, and PFC James B. Washington

SP4 Thomas Henson re-enlisted in the U.S. Army during the summer of 1964 and was stationed in Germany prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Henson attended West Seneca Junior High School and enlisted in the Army in 1962 / Thomas George Henson was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Hope Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Thomas George Henson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03e, Line 44

An Armor Crewman is a highly trained soldier who operates and maintains the M1 Abrams tank, which is the backbone of the U.S. Army's armored forces / They work as part of a team to operate armored equipment and fire weapons to destroy enemy positions / During combat, their role is to operate tanks and amphibious assault vehicles to engage and destroy the enemy

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 2nd Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army that has served for more than two hundred years / It was constituted on 12 April 1808 as the 6th Infantry and consolidated with 4 other regiments in 1815 to form the present unit / In September 1965 the First and Second battalions deployed to Vietnam, landing on the beach at Vung Tau in October 1965 / From there they proceeded to their assigned areas, Phuoc Vinh for the 1st Battalion and Lai Khe for the 2nd Battalion / The battalions initially fought as light infantry in the areas north and west of Saigon / On 2 January 1967 the 2nd Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion / The 1st Battalion sustained its first major casualties of the war on 21 December 1965 when the enemy ambushed the command group of Company B as the company was moving out of Bien Hoa on routine patrol / On 25 August 1966 during Operation Amarillo a patrol from Company C, 1st Battalion was ambushed after stumbling into a Viet Cong base camp, losing 6 men killed of the 15-man patrol, total US losses in the operation were 41 killed, 45 Viet Cong bodies were found, while later intelligence indicated that Viet Cong losses were 171 men killed / During four and a half years the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bu Dop (aka Battle of Hill 172), An Loc, and An Loc II and numerous other operations and small unit actions / Contact with the enemy was almost daily / When the 1st Infantry Division stood down in March and April 1970 the 1st and 2nd Battalion's colors were cased and the soldiers were either reassigned to other units in Vietnam or returned to the United States to be discharged

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HERSHAN**
WILLIAM

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 211 STANTON STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 27TH MARINES, G COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal William Hershman honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL William Hershman was deployed to Vietnam on 18 February 1968 as an Assault Amphibious Vehicle Crewman / LCPL William Hershman was Killed In Action on 15 March 1968 as a result of an explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Hershman was born in Brussels, Belgium / Hershman graduated from School 31 and attended Emerson Vocational High School / William Hershman was a former Buffalo Evening News carrier and was an altar boy at the Ukrainian Holy Trinity Orthodox Church / William Hershman was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

William Hershman is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44e, Line 59

Marine Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) Crewman operate and maintain assault amphibious vehicles / They



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 27th Marine Regiment (27th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / They fought during the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II and again for a short time during the Vietnam War / The regiment was inactivated on 10 January 1946 at the end of World War II, after the surrender of Japan / The 27th Marines was again reactivated during the Vietnam War on 1 January 1966, but was mainly used as a pool for new replacements before they went overseas / The 1st Battalion based at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii was the only battalion with personnel assigned in 1966 / On 12 February 1968 in response to the Tet Offensive, the 27th Marine Regiment was deployed to Da Nang, South Vietnam / At the end of March 1968, 1/27th Marines was moved north to provide security of Route 1 between Huế and Phu Bai Combat Base and the protection of Tân Mỹ Base / While the regiment was preparing for its redeployment to the U.S. in August 1968 the Viet Cong launched their Phase III offensive and 1st Battalion participated in the defense of Da Nang Air Base / On 12 September 1968, the first planeload of Regiment Marines left for Okinawa and on 17 September 1968 the last of 1st Battalion, 27th Marines arrived in Hawaii

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HILBURGER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

MICHAEL

J.

Address: 101 KEYSTONE STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael J. Hilburger honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Hilburger was deployed to Vietnam on 15 July 1966 as an Infantryman / SP4 Michael Hilburger was Killed In Action on 1 May 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered from a landmine in combat action in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Hilburger was drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1965 / Michael J. Hilburger was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Michael J. Hilburger is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 5

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HILL JR**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

W.

Address: 334 HIGH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private James Wallace Hill, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PVT James Hill was deployed to Vietnam on 16 April 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PVT James Hill was Killed In Action on 11 May 1968 from small arms fire during combat action with hostile forces in Hua Nghia Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Jackson , South Carolina - Fort Jackson is a United States Army installation, which the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) operates for Basic Combat Training (BCT), and is located within the city of Columbia, South Carolina / Fort Jackson was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army general and the seventh president of the United States (1829–1837) who was born in the border region of North and South Carolina / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

Miscellaneous:

James Hill was a 1967 graduate of East High School / Hill joined the U.S. Army in September 1967 / James Wallace Hill, Jr. was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

James Wallace Hill, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 58e, Line 22

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

(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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HITRO JR.**
BERNARD

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 35 ECKERT STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Bernard George Hitro, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Bernard Hitro was deployed to Vietnam on 7 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Bernard Hitro was Killed In Action on 10 January 1969 as a result of small arms fire during combat operations in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Corporal Hitro's unit had been sent out to gather details on a sighting of North Vietnamese troops / The mission was to get the enemy's location and strength level, but the soldiers were ambushed, and were vastly outnumbered, about 6 to 1, and surrounded / A radio call was made for helicopters to evacuate them, but because of the intensity of the firefight, the soldiers would have to fight their way back to a location where landings could occur / As they retreated, one of the platoon members was hit and CPL Hitro, despite heavy fire, carried the soldier back to a fire line that had been set up to hold off the enemy / At that point, a rocket propelled grenade hit Hitro's rifle and bounced onto his chest, where it exploded / A medic in the platoon, despite warnings that he too might be attacked, went to Hitro's aid, but was killed / CPL Bernard Hitro, Jr. died from injuries received during combat operations / CPL Hitro was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal for meritorious service as well as the Purple Heart

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Bernard Hitro was born in Exeter, Pennsylvania and moved to Buffalo / Hitro was a 1966 graduate of Riverside High School where he played football / Bernard Hitro was a member of the Riverside Athletic Club and the Tonawanda Boy's Club / Prior to entering the U.S. Army on 4 June 1968, Hitro worked for almost a year at R.P. Adams Co., a manufacturer of heat and filtration products in the Town of Tonawanda / Bernard George Hitro, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Bernard George Hitro, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35w, Line 65

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

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Corporal Bernard George Hitro, Jr. was also awarded the following medals:

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **HOLL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GEORGE

W.

Address: 30 PRINCETON PLACE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 47TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal George William Holl honorably served with the United States Army / CPL George Holl was deployed to Vietnam on 15 July 1968 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / CPL George Holl was Killed In Action on 10 November 1968 from wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations in Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

CPL Holl was wounded after 4 months in Vietnam but recovered and went back to active duty

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George Holl was a 1965 graduate of Bishop Timon High School / Holl entered the U.S. Army in February 1968 / George William Holl was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

George William Holl is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39w, Line 44



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **IMERESE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

D.

Address: 312 VERMONT STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal James David Imerese was deployed to Vietnam as a Radio Telegraph Operator / LCPL James Imerese was Killed In Action on 2 July 1967 from hostile artillery rocket fire during an ambush on Route 561 NE of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On the first day of Operation "Buffalo", 2 July 1967, Company B formed up along Route 561 several kilometers northeast of Con Thien in Quang Tri Province and headed north towards the DMZ / The Marines were unaware that elements of the NVA 324B Division were waiting for them in freshly dug and camouflaged positions / As the Company moved forward the NVA opened up with devastating fire on the men in the open who found themselves caught in a well prepared trap in the vicinity of Route 561 and 605 / Snipers were picking off individual Marines and heavy enemy machinegun fire prevented the Marines to move in any direction / Ordered to link up with the Marines under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire, Company A was prevented to move forward by the enemy using their supporting arms fire / The engagement developed into a day long battle / By the time reinforcements were able to reach the men, little remained of Company B / Among the dead and wounded were the Company Commander, two Platoon Commanders, the Forward Artillery Observer, and Forward Air Controller / The battle was costly for the Marines, eighty-eight men were killed in action, many more were wounded, and fifty-three men who died were from Company B / One the many casualties was LCpl James Imerese who was killed in the action as a result of fragmentation wounds from hostile artillery fire



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

James Imerese graduated from Buffalo Public School #38 and Canisius High School / Imerese was a sophomore at St. Bonaventure University before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corp 17 February 1966 / James David Imerese was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James David Imerese is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 105

A Radio Telegraph Operators operates and keeps in repair equipment used in radiotelegraph communications / Listens to telegraph signal, types message on form, and relays it to addressee by telephone or teletype / Manipulates key to call ships or stations by code, and to send messages after acknowledgment / Monitors emergency frequency for distress calls / Performs routine repairs and maintenance, such as changing tubes, resistors, and transmitters

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

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JACKOWIAK

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ANGOLA

HENRY

P.

Address: 8944 LAKESHORE ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Henry Patrick Jackowiak honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Henry Jackowiak was deployed to Vietnam as a Field Radio Operator / CPL Henry Jackowiak was Killed In Action on 26 September 1967 as a result of enemy artillery fire in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Henry Jackowiak attended St. Francis High School and graduated from Lake Shore Central High School before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in May 1966 / Henry Patrick Jackowiak was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Henry Patrick Jackowiak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 17

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

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

1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (1/3) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii / Nicknamed the "Lava Dogs", the battalion consists of approximately 800 Marines and sailors and falls under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / On 1 May 1942, the 1st Training Battalion was activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina / A month and a half later, on June 17, the unit was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment / The battalion received its first combat experience in November 1943 against the Japanese in the Battle of Bougainville / The battalion fought with distinction for nearly two months against stiff resistance in difficult terrain before being sent to Guadalcanal and Guam / The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines became the second American infantry unit to enter South Vietnam / The battalion began its movement, via air, to Da Nang Air Base in early March 1965 and completed its movement by mid-March / Less than six months after its arrival, 1/3 was withdrawn to Okinawa / The battalion



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

was sent back to Vietnam on 18 November 1965 / In 1969, the United States began to slowly withdraw combat units from Southeast Asia / One of the first Marine units to be notified to commence stand down operations was 1st Battalion, 3d Marines / The unit departed South Vietnam for the United States on 5 October 1969 / Towards the end of the month the battalion arrived in California and was located at again at Camp Pendleton

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JACKSON, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

SANFORD

L.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1955

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Sanford Levon Jackson, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Sanford Jackson was deployed to Vietnam on 4 January 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Sanford Jackson was Killed In Action on 15 August 1966 from wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations around Hill 534 Chu Pong Massif, Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

During Operation Paul Revere II, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, had a continuing mission, beginning in May 1966, to interdict infiltration and supply routes in the Pleiku and Kontum Provinces / The Operation ended at the battle of Hill 534, on the southern portion of Chu Pong Massif near the Cambodian Border / Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, while pursuing a group of Viet Cong on foot, ran into a North Vietnamese battalion in prepared, bunkered positions / Company B, 2/5, while attempting to link up with Alpha Company, began slugging it out with enemy troops, likewise in well-defended positions / As the size of the fortification became known, additional companies were committed until two battalions of Skytroopers were positioned around the enemy / The fierce, close-in fighting continued throughout the night of August 14th and well into the morning of the 15th / When it was over, a total of 138 NVA dead were counted on the slope of Hill 534 / The 5th Cavalry Regiment also paid a high price at the battle on Hill 534, suffering 17 killed / The dead included SSGT Laurie L. Alexander, PFC Henry Butler, 2LT Edward J. Dalton Jr., SP4 Jeffrey B. Wagman, PFC Richard A. Waltman, SP4 Fred Brown Jr., SGT Wayland Dunn Jr., SP4 Sanford L. Jackson Jr., SP4 James T. Langlois, SGT James R. Morley, PFC Donald L. Summers, PFC Fred L. Thomas, PFC James E. Phillips, SSGT William M. Croy, SP4 Caney Green, FSGT



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Kenneth Hawsey, and MAJ William E. Taylor.

SP4 Sanford Jackson, Jr. was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry displayed during combat with enemy forces

SP4 Sanford Jackson joined the United States Air Force in 1955 and was Honorably Discharged in 1959 / In 1960 SP4 Jackson enlisted in the United States Army / Jackson was stationed in the Dominican Republic prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Sanford Jackson was born in Alabama and moved to Buffalo in 1959 / Jackson joined the U.S. Air Force in 1955 / Sanford Levon Jackson, Jr. was 30 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo

Sanford Levon Jackson, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10e, Line 9

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JAKEL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EGGERTSVILLE

CRAIG

J.

Address: 78 CORONATION DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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 Fifth-Class Craig James Jakel honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Craig Jakel was deployed to Vietnam on 17 February 1970 as an Aircraft Materiel Supply Specialist / SP5 Craig Jakel died on 24 February 1971 when the aircraft he was onboard, crashed in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

SP5 Craig Jakel was killed while serving aboard helicopter UH-1D #66-16038 that was enroute to Quan Loi out of Phu Loi / The helicopter crashed on the short final approach to An Loc from about 20 feet after witnesses heard an explosion and saw a fire / They fell straight down, exploding on impact / There were 7 casualties: Thomas E Bennett - Helicopter Pilot, Steven W Goelz - Helicopter Pilot, Vernon A Green - Radio Operator, Clarence D Hakes - Helicopter Pilot, Craig J Jakel - Aircraft Materiel Supply Specialist, Michael H Keys - Helicopter Repairer and Joseph M Wilsher - Helicopter Pilot

SP5 Craig Jakel was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Craig Jakel was a graduate of Bishop Fallon High School where he was an All-Catholic tennis player / Jakel attended Erie County Community College before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968 / Craig James Jakel was 23



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Craig James Jakel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 3

An Aircraft Materiel Supply Specialist supervises, performs, or advises on use, interchangeability, and identification of repair parts for aircraft materiel / Supervises reception, location, storage preservation, and issuance of repair parts / Analyzes aircraft repair parts activities to determine efficiency of operation; conducts aircraft repair parts on-the-job training / Supervises in development and preparation of operations information, plans maps, sketches, overlays and related data to employ supply and service organizations / Analyzes reports on supply and services support operations / Assists in appraisal of supply operations and training

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JEDNAT

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WALES

ERIC

J.

Address: 5465 WALES CREEK ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY, B TROOP

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Eric John Jednat honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Eric Jednat was deployed to Vietnam on 10 August 1967 as an Armor Crewman / SP4 Eric Jednat was Killed In Action on 5 July 1968 from an enemy explosive device while on combat operations in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Eric Jednat graduated from Iroquois High School in 1966 where as a wrestler, helped his team to break the national wrestling victory streak / Jednat was inducted into the U.S Army in September 1966 / Eric John Jednat was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, New York

Eric John Jednat is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53w, Line 20

An Armor Crewman is a highly trained soldier who operates and maintains the M1 Abrams tank, which is the backbone of the U.S. Army's armored forces / They work as part of a team to operate armored equipment and fire weapons to destroy enemy positions / During combat, their role is to operate tanks and amphibious assault vehicles to engage and destroy the enemy

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

The 4th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment, whose lineage is traced back to the mid-19th century / It was one of the most effective units of the Army against American Indians on the Texas frontier / Today, the regiment exists as separate squadrons within the U.S. Army / The 1st Squadron of the 4th Cavalry's official nickname is "Quarterhorse", which alludes to its 1/4 Cav designation / The 3rd Squadron of the 4th Cavalry's official nickname is "Raiders" / Today, the "1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry" and "5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry" are parts of the 1st Infantry Division, while the "3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry" serves as part of the 25th Infantry Division / The 4th Cavalry Regiment served in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War II / 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry (1-4 Cavalry, popularly called "Quarterhorse") was assigned to be the divisional reconnaissance squadron of the 1st Infantry Division based at Di An, South Vietnam / It arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 7 October 1965, making it the first element of the 4th Cavalry to deploy to Vietnam / On 24 February 1966, Troop B fought a stiff skirmish with the VC and repulsed the enemy / On 30 June 1966, HQ, Troops B, C, D and C Company 2-18 Infantry engaged the VC 271st Regiment while conducting reconnaissance and managed to kill 300 VC during the seven-hour battle / Throughout the Vietnam War, the troopers of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment participated in numerous battle and operations including; Operation Niagara, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Williston, Operation Tucson-Delta, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, Operation Shenandoah II, the Tet Offensive, and many more in numerous small villages along the Cambodia-South Vietnam border, and throughout South Vietnam / The 1st Squadron was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its heroism in Binh Long Province as well as a Valorous Unit Award for Binh Dong Province

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JONES

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

THOMAS

P.

Address: 274 WOODSIDE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: LT

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH FLEET, PATROL SQUADRON 26, VP-26

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Thomas Paul Jones honorably served in the United States Navy / LT Thomas Jones was deployed to Vietnam as a Naval Flight Officer / LT Thomas Jones was declared Missing In Action on 6 February 1968 after his aircraft left Thailand on 5 February 1968 to locate enemy water craft on a mission and crashed in the Gulf of Thailand

At 0900 hours on 5 February 1968, a P-3B Orion #BU-153440 with a crew of twelve departed Utapao Air Base, Thailand on a "Market Time" mission (an eight year effort meant to prevent men and supplies from North Vietnam entering South Vietnam via coastal waterways) over the Gulf of Thailand (Gulf of Siam) / They were scheduled to return to their base at about 0900 hours the following morning / The crew on board the aircraft included Lt. Thomas P. Jones; LtJg. Lynn M. Travis; LtJg. Roy A. Huss; AXCS Donald F. Burnett; AX3 Armando Chapa Jr.; AX3 William F. Farris (AX designates Antisubmarine warfare technicians and related duties); AOC Donald L. Gallagher; AMH2 Homer E. McKay; ADR1 James C. Newman Jr.; AE1 Melvin C. Thompson / As antisubmarine warfare was all but unknown in Vietnam, there were a variety of duties handled by those trained in antisubmarine warfare / As marking submarines, and/or destroying them involved the use of marking buoys, electronic "ears" and other technical equipment suited for target marking, antisubmarine teams were frequently used for search missions / They also sometimes assisted in attacks on small enemy water craft / Shortly after midnight on 6 February, the Orion reported a surface contact / Some two hours later it reported another contact somewhat further east / The last report received from the Orion was after 0300 hours / No



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

subsequent communication was received / An emergency communication alert for the aircraft was declared shortly after daybreak and a full search and rescue (SAR) was declared / In the late afternoon of 6 February, wreckage and debris were sighted and identified / On 7 February search and rescue operations were terminated at sundown / Salvage operations were conducted from 11 February through 21 March / The investigating officer concluded that the Orion had impacted with the water, and that the aircraft had been completely destroyed, and that all of the crewmembers had died instantly / The Orion went down about 50 miles off the shores of South Vietnam's An Xuyen Province in the Gulf of Thailand / They located debris forty miles off the coast of South Vietnam, but only two bodies were recovered / The remaining crew members are considered Missing in Action / Presumably, all the crew aboard are "buried" at sea - an honorable burial for a naval man / This crew is listed with honor among the missing because no remains were ever found

LT Thomas Jones served at NATO in Newfoundland, Scotland and Ireland before starting training for surveillance at Brunswick, Maine prior to his deployment to the Pacific

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Jones was a graduate of Bishop Timon High School and Buffalo State University College / Jones enlisted in the U.S. Navy in March 1963 / Thomas Paul Jones was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial and on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC.

Thomas Paul Jones is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 37e, Line 59

The Seventh Fleet is a numbered fleet of the United States Navy / It is headquartered at U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan and is part of the United States Pacific Fleet / At present, it is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, with 50 to 70 ships, 150 aircraft and 27,000 Sailors and Marines / Its principal responsibilities are to provide joint command in natural disaster or military operations and operational command of all U.S. naval forces in the region / On 12 February 1965, USS Salisbury Sound (AV-13) became the first U.S. Navy ship to conduct operations inside Vietnam coastal waters.[9] Salisbury Sound set up a seadrome in Da Nang Bay and conducted seaplane patrols in support of Operation Flaming Dart, the bombing of North Vietnamese army camps / Operating primarily from Yankee Station off the north coast of Vietnam and the south coast of Vietnam in the South China Sea, Seventh Fleet was organized into a series of task forces, which included providing air support to US forces in South Vietnam, bombing North Vietnamese army camps, providing naval gunfire support and removing naval mines dropped in Haiphong harbor / In 1975, ships and aircraft of the 7th Fleet evacuated thousands of U.S. citizens and refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia as those countries fell to opposing forces

Patrol Squadron VP-26 is a maritime patrol squadron with a worldwide theater of operations / Mission areas include anti-submarine warfare (ASW); anti-morale warfare (AMW); anti-surface warfare (ASU); command and control warfare (C2W); command, control and communications (CCC); intelligence (INT); mine warfare (MIW) / From 24 November 1967 to April 1968, VP-26 deployed to the western Pacific with detachments based at NS



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Sangley Point in the Philippines and U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield in Thailand / The squadron was tasked with Yankee Team patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin, Market Time surveillance off the southern coast of South Vietnam and open-sea patrols in the South China Sea

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The Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JORDAN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

PATRICK

M.

Address: 168 JEWETT PARKWAY

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Patrick Michael Jordan honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Patrick Jordan was deployed to Vietnam on 12 June 1967 as a Rifleman / LCPL Patrick Jordan was Killed In Action on 14 December 1967 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

LCPL Patrick Jordan was stationed in Reykjavik, Iceland for a year before being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Patrick Jordan attended Bennett High School before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965 / Patrick Michael Jordan was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Patrick Michael Jordan is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 92

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

1st Battalion, 4th Marines (1/4) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / They fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was originally activated in April 1911 as the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment / The battalion first saw combat in November 1916 in the Dominican Republic / The outbreak of World War II found the battalion serving as part of the U.S. Forces defending the Philippines / In the spring of 1965 the battalion deployed to combat in South Vietnam / From 1965 to 1969 the battalion engaged in numerous conventional and counter-insurgency operations in the I Corps / Some of the major operations that 1/4 was involved in were Operation Prairie, Operation Beacon Hill, Operation Prairie IV, Operation Deckhouse IV, Operation Kentucky, Operation Purple Martin and Operation Napoleon/Saline would be fought from places such as the Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Con Thien and Ca Lu Combat Base / In November 1969 the battalion was redeployed to Okinawa and would also serve off the coast of Vietnam / The battalion participated in the rescue of the SS Mayaguez in May 1975

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JUDGE, JR.**
WILLIAM C.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address: 84 GREENWOOD AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William Charles Judge, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC William Judge was deployed to Vietnam on 8 October 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC William Judge was Killed In Action on 27 March 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in combat operations during the Battle of Khe Sanh in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam / PFC Judge was awarded the Purple Heart (posthumously)

The Battle of Khe Sanh was conducted in northwestern Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam with roots in 1967, and extending viciously throughout 1968 / It was the longest, deadliest and most controversial battle of the Vietnam War / During the battle, a massive aerial bombardment campaign (Operation Niagara) was launched by the United States / Over 100,000 tons of bombs / Five tons of bombs for every one of the 20,000 NVA soldiers in the fight / President Johnson was determined to hold Khe Sanh at all costs / The jungles surrounding Khe Sanh were burned and bombed barren and Khe Sanh became the major news headline coming out of Vietnam in late March 1968 / The cost on American lives lost has been estimated to be around 1000 with NVA loses ten times that number

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

William Judge was a 1960 graduate of Lackawanna Senior High School / Judge worked as a Firefighter at the Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel before being drafted into the U.S. Army on 8 May 1967 / William Charles Judge, Jr. was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

William Judge, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 46e, Line 47

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

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KARN

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

WAYNE

D.

Address: 22 LARKWOOD ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

A CO, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MAGTF)

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Wayne Douglas Karn honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Wayne Karn was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Wayne Karn was Killed in Action on 20 June 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

In June 1967, with termination of Operation UNION, the Battalion retained its forward Command Post on Hill 51 and continued to conduct combat operations in the Que Son District of Quang Nam Province / During a security patrol on Route 514 west of Hill 51 near the village of Lanh Thoug several rounds of sniper fire rang out, LCPL Wayne Karn was struck and killed by the hostile fire

LCPL Karn was a Machine Gunner and served in Cuba for four months prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training

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

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is located 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 and was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the west coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars with approximately 200,000 Marines passing through the base on their way to the Far East / In 1975 Camp Pendleton was the first military base in the U.S. to provide accommodations for Vietnamese evacuees in Operation New Arrivals; over 50,000 refugees came to the base in the largest humanitarian airlift in history / Camp Pendleton is the home for I Marine Expeditionary Force and various training commands

Miscellaneous:

Wayne Karn graduated from West Seneca Central High School in 1964 / After graduation, Karn was a dental technician for the Agthe Dental Laboratory / Prior to being drafted into the Marine Corps on 22 March 1966, Karn was a truck driver for Fisher-Price Toys / Wayne Douglas Karn was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Wayne Douglas Karn is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 25

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

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June 1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

The I Marine Expeditionary Force is a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) of the United States Marine Corps primarily composed of the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 1st Marine Logistics Group / It is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton / I Marine Expeditionary Force is the largest of the three MEFs in the Fleet Marine Force and is often referred to as the "Warfighting MEF" for its consistent involvement and contributions in major armed conflicts

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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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KAZMIERCZAK

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

ROBERT

J.

Address: 23 ORANGE STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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:

Corporal Robert Joseph Kazmierczak honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Robert Kazmierczak was deployed to Vietnam on 4 January 1969 and assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Robert Kazmierczak was Killed in Action on 14 June 1969 when he stepped on an enemy booby trap, suffering fatal wounds while on patrol in Binh Dinh, South Vietnam

On June 14, 1969, CPL Kazmierczak's platoon from C Company was working with D Company of the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, in Binh Dinh Province, RVN / At 1303 hours, D Company, 4/503, heard an explosion to their south / They sent out a patrol and found a Viet Cong female with multiple fragmentation wounds to both of her legs / Part of the patrol escorted her to a medivac helicopter while another part of the patrol searched the area when a booby trapped 105mm artillery shell was set off / Kazmierczak was killed instantly in the blast and another trooper was wounded

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Kazmierczak graduated from Baker Victory High School (1966), Lackawanna, and Bryant & Stratton Business Institute / Prior to his induction into military service, Kazmierczak was employed at the Bethlehem Steel



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Corp Lackawanna plant, and was attending evening classes at Millard Fillmore College of the University of Buffalo, working toward a business degree / Robert Joseph Kazmierczak was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Robert Joseph Kazmierczak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22w, Line 47

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

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry served in Vietnam from 22 September 1967 to 13 December 1970 in II Corps (Central Highlands), providing combat power to major units as and where it was most needed / At times it was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 173d Airborne Brigade and 1st Field Force Vietnam / The 173rd served in Loc Son, Phan Thiet, Cay Giep Mountains, in and around Binh Thuan Province

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KEELER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

WILLIAM

C.

Address: 853 PARKER ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 10TH AVIATION BATTALION, 17TH AVIATION GROUP, HEADQUARTERS
COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant William Charles Keeler honorably served in the United States Army / SGT William Keeler was deployed to Vietnam on 8 May 1968 as an Infantryman / SGT William Keeler was Killed In Action on 1 December 1969 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Duc Province, South Vietnam

This was the second Vietnam tour for Green Beret Sergeant William Keeler and was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart during his first tour

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

William Keeler attended Hamburg Senior High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1967 / William Charles Keeler was 19 old years at the time of his passing and is interred at Prospect Lawn Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

William Charles Keeler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 13

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

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

The 17th Aviation Brigade was a military formation of the United States Army / It was originally activated at Nha Trang, Vietnam, as the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) on 15 December 1965 under the 1st Aviation Brigade / Later it moved to Tuy Hoa in November 1970 and then to Pleiku in January 1972 / The group had the mission of commanding and controlling all non-divisional assets in II Corps Tactical Zone, under I Field Force / The 10th, 14th, 52d, 223rd and 268th Aviation Battalions as well as the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry served with the group

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

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KELLY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

ROGER

E.

Address: 126 PALMER AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Roger Edward Kelly honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Roger Kelly was deployed to Vietnam on 23 October 1967 as a Rifleman / LCPL Roger Kelly was Killed In Action on 2 February 1968 from wounds suffered from small arms fire during a firefight with enemy elements in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During the month of February 1968, the 1st Battalion continued to participate in Operation Kentucky with Company D under the operational control of the 9th Marines operating in the Cam Lo area along Routes 9 and 1 in northern Quang Tri Province / On February 2, elements of Company D at the Cam Lo District Headquarters came under a heavy ground attack by the NVA / Fighting continued until day break when the enemy withdrew / Five Marines were killed in action and thirteen were wounded, one of the casualties was LCPL Roger Kelly who was killed in the action by hostile gunshot wounds

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / 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

Miscellaneous:

Roger Kelly graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School in 1966 / Kelly enlisted in the Marine Corps on 5 September 1968 / Roger Edward Kelly was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Roger Edward Kelly is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 36e, Line 76

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

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

1st Battalion, 4th Marines (1/4) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / They fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was originally activated in April 1911 as the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment / The battalion first saw combat in November 1916 in the Dominican Republic / The outbreak of World War II found the battalion serving as part of the U.S. Forces defending the Philippines / In the spring of 1965 the battalion deployed to combat in South Vietnam / From 1965 to 1969 the battalion engaged in numerous conventional and counter-insurgency operations in the I Corps / Some of the major operations that 1/4 was involved in were Operation Prairie, Operation Beacon Hill, Operation Prairie IV, Operation Deckhouse IV, Operation Kentucky, Operation Purple Martin and Operation Napoleon/Saline would be fought from places such as the Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Con Thien and Ca Lu Combat Base / In November 1969 the battalion was redeployed to Okinawa and would also serve off the coast of Vietnam / The battalion participated in the rescue of the SS Mayaguez in May 1975



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KESTER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ANGOLA

RICHARD

L.

Address: 1079 CHURCH ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Richard Lee Kester honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Kester was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1969 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / SP4 Richard Kester was Killed In Action on 3 June 1970 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Kester was a member of the Evans Center Volunteer Fire Company, the Evans Center Rescue Squad and the Big Moose Rod and Gun Club / Richard Lee Kester was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Avenue Cemetery, Angola, New York

Richard Lee Kester is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 5

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KINDEL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EAST AURORA

JAMES

C.

Address: 731 MAPLE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered: 1955

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

13TH AIR FORCE, 505TH TSG, 21ST TASS

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIR MEDAL W/4 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain James Carl Kindel honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain James Kindel was deployed to Vietnam on 28 August 1965 as a Tactical Aircraft Pilot / Captain James Kindel died on 14 December 1965 when his aircraft crashed in Tuyen Duc Province, South Vietnam

Captain James Kindel was shot down over Tuyen Duc Province in Vietnam while flying an unarmed reconnaissance mission just before Christmas 1965 / With complete disregard for his personal safety, Captain Kindel continued to fly above a Viet Cong patrol, keeping them under surveillance and relaying their position to approaching friendly forces / While making a final pass, he took small arms fire from the patrol and crashed / Captain Kindel was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal w/4 Oak Leaf Clusters for acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight

Captain Kindel had 10 years of service and served 109 days in combat

After completing Pilot and Navigator training in 1956, James Kindel was assigned to the Strategic Air Command as a Bomber Pilot / Kindel graduated from Squadron Officer School in 1961 and later assigned as Project Manager in the Design Division Office, Office of the deputy Chief of Staff

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama - Maxwell AFB, officially known as Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, is a United States Air Force (USAF) located in Montgomery, Alabama, United States / Occupying the site of the first Wright Flying School, it was named in honor of Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, a native of Atmore, Alabama / The base is the headquarters of Air University (AU), a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC), and is the U.S. Air Force's center for Joint Professional Military Education (PME) / The field served as a repair depot during World War I and trained U.S. military aviators and their support teams for wartime service during World War II

Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee - Arnold AFB is a United States Air Force base located in Coffee and Franklin counties, Tennessee, adjacent to the city of Tullahoma / It is named for General Henry "Hap" Arnold, the father of the U.S. Air Force / The base is home to the Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC), the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world / The center operates 58 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells, space environmental chambers, arc heaters, ballistic ranges and other specialized units

Miscellaneous:

James Kindel was a graduate of Orchard Park High School and Alfred University / Kindel joined the U.S. Air Force after earning his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Buffalo in 1954 / James Carl Kindel was 35 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, New York

James Carl Kindel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04e, Line 16

The forward air controllers were acknowledged as having one of the most dangerous flying jobs in the in-country war in South Vietnam / The small, low-powered, slow and low-flying aircraft were frequent targets for ground fire

The Thirteenth Expeditionary Air Force (13 EAF) is a provisional numbered air force of the United States Air Force Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Hickam Air Force Base, Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam on the island of Oahu, Hawaii / It has never been stationed in the continental United States / The command plans, commands and controls, delivers, and assesses air, space, and information operations in the Asia-Pacific region, excluding the Korea theater of operations, across the security spectrum from peacetime engagement to major combat operations / Established on 14 December 1942 at Plaine Des Gaiacs Airfield, on New Caledonia, 13 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat air force deployed to the Pacific Theater of World War II / It engaged in operations primarily in the South Pacific, attacking enemy forces in the Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaigns; Mariana and Palau Islands campaigns and the Philippines campaign (1944–45) / During the Korean War, its units provided staging areas for people and equipment destined for the war zone / As the Vietnam War escalated during the late 1960s and early 1970s, 13th AF provided command and control for USAF units stationed in Thailand, its units conducting combat missions throughout Indochina until August 1973 / 13 AF units last engaged in combat during the SS Mayaguez Incident in May 1975 / The 13th Air Force returned to the Philippines after the Vietnam War ended in 1975

The 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron (21st TASS) was a U.S. Air Force forward air control squadron / It was



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

organized on 8 May 1965 and was assigned to the 2nd Air Division and attached to the 6250th Tactical Air Support Group (Provisional) at Pleiku Air Base in South Vietnam / On 8 November 1965, the squadron was reassigned to the 505th Tactical Control Group, which was headquartered at Tan Son Nhut Airport near Saigon / The 505th provided administrative and logistical support to the 21st / In September 1966, the 21st was relocated to Nha Trang Air Base where it was attached to the 14th Air Commando Wing / On 8 December 1966, the 21st was reassigned the 504th Tactical Air Support Group / The headquarters for the squadron remained at Nha Trang until October 1969 when it was moved to Cam Ranh Bay Air Base / Its final move was back to the 377th Air Base Wing at Tan Son Nhut on 15 March 1972 / During combat missions in Vietnam, the 21st TASS lost 58 aircraft / Air crew casualties over the course of the war totaled at least 29 KIA, one captured and held POW, and one injured in a flying accident / The 21 TASS was inactivated on 23 February 1973 at Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KLOS, JR.
DANIEL E.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

Address: 1160 CLEVELAND DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE, 37TH SIGNAL BATTALION, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Daniel Edmund Klos, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Daniel Klos was deployed to Vietnam on 12 February 1967 as a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator / SP4 Daniel Klos was Killed In Action 12 November 1967 from an enemy explosive device while conducting combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

SP4 Daniel Klos died in an explosion from a land mine under an Army vehicle in which he was riding near Hoi An, South Vietnam / Klos was first reported missing, but his body was later recovered

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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:

Daniel Klos graduated from Infant of Prague (elementary school) and Maryvale High School / Klos worked for Twin Industries Corp before joining the U.S. Army on 25 July 1966 / Daniel Edmund Klos, Jr. was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel Edmund Klos, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29e, Line 83

A Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator supervises, installs, operates and performs maintenance checks and services on manual or automated tactical multichannel communications equipment / Assign duties, coordinates and supervises activities of assigned personnel to include resolution of problems in communications operations in employment of Wire and Cable Systems; Switchboard Systems Radio Teletype Communications; Radio Relay Communications; Tactical Satellite Communications; Multichannel and Microwave Communications; Issues communications-electronics operating instructions (CEOI) and plans frequency / The operator also maintains communications situation maps, overlays and presents briefings on same; determines capabilities and limitations of assigned equipment; profiles line-on-sight radio transmission paths and tropospheric scatter radio transmission paths allocation and management; plans and prepares communications systems diagrams; supervises the displacement of manual and automated communications systems equipment and switching centers

The 1st Signal Brigade was activated on 1 April 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam / The brigade's mission in Vietnam was to originate, install, operate, and maintain a complex communication system that fused tactical and strategic communications in Southeast Asia under a single, unified command / The formation of the brigade brought together three signal groups that were already in South Vietnam / At the peak of the Vietnam War the brigade consisted of more than 21,000 soldiers, in six Signal groups (including the 160th Signal Group), 22 signal battalions and several communications agencies, making the 1st Signal Brigade the largest signal unit in the U.S. Army at the time

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KNAUS**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

RICHARD

A.

Address: 54 FRED A AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 19TH ARTILLERY, BATTERY B

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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:

Private First-Class Richard A. Knaus honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Richard Knaus was deployed to Vietnam on 3 May 1966 as an Airborne Qualified Field Artillery Basic with the 1st Cavalry / SP4 Richard Knaus was Killed In Action on 27 December 1966 from small arms fire during combat action near LZ (landing zone) Bird the Crow's Foot - Kim Son River, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of 27 December 1966, three North Vietnamese Army battalions of the 22nd Regiment used a two-day Christmas truce to move into position for a surprise attack on LZ Bird, an U.S. Army artillery base adjacent to the Kim Son River in Binh Dinh Province, RVN / LZ Bird was defended by only part of C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, which was providing security for 1st Cavalry howitzers of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery (105mm guns) and C Battery, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery (155mm guns) / The combined American strength at LZ Bird was 170 personnel / The NVA attack, estimated at 1000-man strong, began supported by mortar, recoilless-rifle, and machine gun fire / They broke through the perimeter and occupied some of the American gun positions / The 1st Cavalry soldiers fought back, with some of the fighting dissolving into hand-to-hand warfare / A number of the 105mm guns were cranked down to pointblank range, and "beehive" rounds sliced through the attackers like scythes, effectively stopping the assault in its tracks / This and armed CH-47 Chinook helicopter gunship support stalled the NVA momentum, and they began to withdraw / One account of enemy dead was assessed at a total of 211 NVA killed (body count) in and around the LZ / The American losses were 28 killed and 67 wounded



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Private First-Class Knaus distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 27 December 1966, while serving as an assistant gunner in a howitzer section of Battery B, 2d Battalion, 19th Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, during a combat support mission in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam / During a heavy attack by two battalions of North Vietnamese which was preceded by a violent mortar barrage, Private First-Class Knaus and other members of his section continued to remain at their howitzer, firing directly into the onrushing enemy / When the numerically superior North Vietnamese force began to overrun Private First-Class Knaus' section, a command to withdraw to a safer position was given / At this time, a fellow member of the section and close friend of Private First-Class Knaus jumped into the parapet and refused to evacuate the position / Private First Class-Knaus immediately jumped into the parapet and attempted to get his friend to withdraw with the others / When the man still refused to leave the area, Private First-Class Knaus, with complete disregard for his own safety, remained at the position and continued to protect both his friend and himself by placing a heavy volume of small arms fire on the enemy / After he had expended all of his ammunition, he threw himself on top of his comrade, sacrificing his own life in a final attempt to save the life of a fellow soldier / For his gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States , PFC Knaus was award the Silver Star

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Knaus graduated from Cheektowaga Central High School in 1964 and was drafted into the U.S Army on 26 October 1965 / Richard A. Knaus was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Richard A. Knaus is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13e, Line 84

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 19th Field Artillery Regiment is a Field Artillery regiment of the United States Army first formed in 1916

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KNIGHT**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

BRYAN

T.

Address: 300 FENCH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 75TH INFANTRY LRRP, L COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Bryan Theotis Knight honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Bryan Knight was deployed to Vietnam on 8 January 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Bryan Knight was Killed In Action on 11 May 1970 from enemy small arms fire suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 11 May 1970, Ranger Team Kansas was providing radio relay and reconnaissance for LRRP (Long-range reconnaissance patrol) teams attached to the 101st Airborne inserted in the A Shau Valley, one of the key entry points into South Vietnam for men and materiel brought along the Ho Chi Minh Trail by the Communist North Vietnamese Army / The team consisted of six members: SGT Raymond D. Ellis, SSGT Robert L. O'Connor, SGT Gary P. Baker, SGT David Munoz, CPL George E. Fogleman, and PFC Bryan T. Knight / Less than a kilometer away in thick bamboo stands was a LRRP team monitoring an enemy high speed trail a few feet away from their concealed position / While on watch, one of the LRRP team members heard the faint sound of automatic weapons fire coming from the direction of the Kansas team / Listing intently, a few minutes later he then heard what sounded like six single pistol shots spaced about ten seconds apart / Concerned, the LRRP member tried to raise the Kansas team's radio operator, but got no answer / After several unsuccessful attempts to call the team, the LRRP member called the TOC (tactical operations center) which deployed an OH-6A "Loach" to establish contact with the missing radio relay team / The Loach pilot reported that he'd spotted what appeared to be six bodies sprawled across a trail / A Ranger team was dispatched to the radio relay team's position / The



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

six Kansas team members lay dead, each with a gunshot wound to the head and each man's skull crushed with a rifle butt / No one was sure what occurred, but what was surmised is that a small number of NVA had simply walked right up and killed them instantly / The enemy had probably been watching the team for days, waiting for the right time to make their move / Three piles of empty brass cartridges surrounded the bodies, indicating only three NVA soldiers had carried out the shooting / All the American's weapons were gone but their web gear and ruck sacks and radio were still there, and their pockets were inside out / A group of 20 men from B Troop, 17th Cavalry was inserted to help with the recovery of their slain comrades / The incident spooked a lot of the Rangers and had a devastating effect on the company / A week later, a Ranger team was inserted in the same AO (area of operations) / While surveying the abandoned former Firebase Whip, the team ambushed and killed two NVA soldiers / After searching the dead soldier's bodies, they found evidence that the two had been responsible for the tragedy which befell the radio relay team Kansas / The Rangers avenged the death of their brothers-in-arms

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bryan Knight was a 1966 graduate of Riverside High School and attended Bryant and Stratton Business School / Knight was employed by St. Regis Paper Company prior to entering the U.S. Army / Bryan Theotis Knight was and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Bryan Theotis Knight is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10w, Line 18

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

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) (officially 75th Infantry Regiment or 75th Infantry) was initially a parent regiment for all the US Army Ranger units during the Vietnam War and the early 1980s and then the headquarters for the Ranger battalions / On 1 February 1969, as part of the U.S. Army Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS), all U.S. Army Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) units were reorganized as the 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) / Fifteen Ranger companies were formed from reconnaissance units in Europe and Vietnam with lineage to Merrill's Marauders (5307th Composite Unit) / The Ranger companies were composed of small, heavily armed long range reconnaissance teams that patrolled deep in enemy-held territory / Each independent company was attached to a separate division or brigade and acted as the eyes and ears of those units / Rangers collected intelligence, discovered enemy troop locations, surveilled trails and enemy hot spots, directed artillery and air strikes, performed bomb damage assessments, and conducted ambushes / Additionally, Rangers attempted to recover prisoners of war, capture enemy soldiers for interrogation, tap the wire communications of the North Vietnam Army and the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (Vietcong) on the Ho Chi Minh trail, and mine enemy trails and roads

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A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KNUTSEN**
DONALD P.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 114 SAGE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

AMERICAL DIVISION, 14TH AVIATION BATTALION, 176TH ASSLT HEL COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Donald Paul Knutsen honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Donald Knutsen was deployed to Vietnam on 6 November 1970 as a Single-Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman / SP4 Donald Knutsen was reported Missing In Action on 22 March 1971 when the helicopter he was riding was hit by enemy fire and crashed / The remains of SP4 Donald Knutsen were never recovered

On 22 March 1971, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 68-15759) from the 176th Assault Helicopter Company crashed after being hit by enemy fire during Operation Lam Son 719, a limited-objective offensive campaign conducted in the southeastern portion of the Kingdom of Laos / The aircraft crashed with the loss of all personnel aboard / The lost crew included aircraft commander WO1 Reginald Cleve, pilot WO1 John G. Traver III, crew chief SP4 Donald P. Knutsen, and gunner SP4 Walter R. Hall / The aircraft was in a flight of five helicopters conducting an emergency resupply mission / It was flying at an altitude of about 5000 feet above sea level in Savannakhet Province, Laos, when it was fired upon by a hostile ground force / An explosion occurred in the cargo compartment and the helicopter burst into flames and fell to earth / The aircraft impacted essentially in one piece and again exploded / No one was observed to exit the aircraft, and it was the opinion of the incident investigating committee that no one could have survived / No rescue attempts were made due to the heavy concentration of enemy troops and anti-aircraft fire in the area

Specialist Fourth-Class Donald Knutsen is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific / His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Knutsen was a graduate of South Park High School / Knutsen attended Central Bible College in Springville, Missouri before being drafted into the U.S. Army in June 1969 / Donald Paul Knutsen was 21 years old at the time of his passing and a gravestone honoring Knutsen is located at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Donald Paul Knutsen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 67

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 14th Aviation Battalion was constituted on 2 Sept 1964, in the Regular Army as Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 14th Aviation Battalion and was activated on 3 Sept 1964, at Ft Benning, Georgia / The Battalion Headquarters arrived in Saigon, RVN on 14 Oct 1964, and was assigned to the United States Army Support Command Vietnam / On 21 Oct 1964, Headquarters, 14th Aviation Battalion moved from Saigon to Nha Trang and the Battalion was declared operational on 17 Nov 1964 / The 14th Combat Aviation Battalion engaged the enemy from Nha Trang to Khe Sanh and into the Kingdom of Laos for over seven years / One hundred and fifty four soldiers were Killed In Action / The last remnants of the 14th Aviation Battalion were deployed back to the new home of the 14th Aviation Battalion, Ft Sill, Oklahoma, on 25 October 1971

The 176th Assault Helicopter Company, also known as the "Minute Men, Muskets", played a significant role during the Vietnam War / The 176th Aviation Company (air-mobile light) was activated on 1 October 1965, at Fort Benning, Georgia / The company's mission was to provide aviation support to units of the Free World Military Forces and the Republic of Vietnam Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone / The advance party arrived in Vietnam at Bien Hoa on 8 February 1967 / After a brief stay at the 90th Replacement Company, they reported to the 12th Aviation Group and then to the Buffalo Battalion at Bear Cat / On 14 February 1967, the party signed into the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion at Lane Army Heliport and began building their base camp at Phu Hiep, which would later be known as Minuteman Manor / The 176th Aviation Company earned the nickname



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

“Minutemen” due to their swift response and readiness / Their gunship flight was known as the “Muskets” and played a crucial role during their service in Vietnam

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

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

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

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KOEHLER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CLARENCE CENTER

DAVID

J.

Address: 9210 CLARENCE CENTER ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, I COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class David James Koehler honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC David Koehler was deployed to Vietnam on 20 April 1969 as a Rifleman / PFC David Koehler was Killed In Action on 4 June 1969 as a result of enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Private First-Class David J. Koehler, United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Rifleman with Company I, Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam / On 4 June 1969, during Operation VIRGINIA RIDGE, while Company I was conducting a search and destroy operation west of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province, the Marines came under a heavy volume of small arms fire from a hostile force occupying well-concealed emplacements / During the initial moments of the engagement, the Marines sustained several casualties / Observing that his wounded companions were lying in positions dangerously exposed to the enemy fire, Private First Class Koehler unhesitatingly raced across the fire-swept terrain and pulled one of the men to a covered position just as a hand grenade detonated where his comrade had been / Again braving hostile fire, he re-entered the hazardous area to retrieve another injured man and while he was placing him in a relatively secure location, Private First Class Koehler was mortally wounded by small arms fire / His heroic and bold actions inspired all who observed him and saved the lives of two Marines



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Koehler graduated from Clarence Central High School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968 / David James Koehler was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Marys Cemetery, Swarmsville, New York

David James Koehler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23w, Line 62

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

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

The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, abbreviated as (3/3), was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps, based out of Kaneohe, Hawaii / Known as either "Trinity" or "America's Battalion", the unit normally fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / When fully manned, the unit consisted of approximately 1000 U.S. Marines and United States Navy Sailors / The battalion was originally formed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1942 and saw action on both Bougainville and Guam during World War II, where it was awarded its first Presidential Unit Citation and Navy Unit Commendation / Marines in the battalion were also awarded one Medal of Honor and seven Navy Crosses during the war / In 1965, the Marines of 3rd Battalion were deployed to the Vietnam War and participated in Operation Starlite, the first major Marine engagement of that conflict / The battalion continued to see major action through Vietnam and was rotated back to the United States in 1969 / Around the end of the Vietnam War, the Battalion was deactivated for a second time in 1974

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

Private First-Class David James Koehler also was 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KORDASIEWICZ**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

HARRY

J.

Address: 46 WEST GIRARD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PO3

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, M COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Third-Class Harry Jay Kordasiewicz honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Harry Kordasiewicz was deployed to Vietnam on 15 November 1967 as a Navy Medical Corpsman / PO3 Harry Kordasiewicz was Killed In Action on 6 April 1968 by a direct hit from a mortar attack during a fire fight in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Harry Kordasiewicz was a 1964 graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / Kordasiewicz attended Niagara County Community College before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in December 1965 / Harry Jay Kordasiewicz was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Harry Jay Kordasiewicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48e, Line 29

Navy Medical Corpsman were the enlisted medical specialists of the Navy and Marine Corps / Medical Corpsman are military enlisted person trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment / The Medical Corps consists of



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

commissioned medical officers who are physicians / A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment / U.S. Army Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War

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

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, abbreviated as (3/3), was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps, based out of Kaneohe, Hawaii / Known as either "Trinity" or "America's Battalion", the unit normally fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / When fully manned, the unit consisted of approximately 1000 U.S. Marines and United States Navy Sailors / The battalion was originally formed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1942 and saw action on both Bougainville and Guam during World War II, where it was awarded its first Presidential Unit Citation and Navy Unit Commendation / Marines in the battalion were also awarded one Medal of Honor and seven Navy Crosses during the war / In 1965, the Marines of 3rd Battalion were deployed to the Vietnam War and participated in Operation Starlite, the first major Marine engagement of that conflict / The battalion continued to see major action through Vietnam and was rotated back to the United States in 1969 / Around the end of the Vietnam War, the Battalion was deactivated for a second time in 1974

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRIEGER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

FRANK

A.

Address: 21 BARTHEL STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Frank Anthony Krieger honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Frank Krieger was deployed to Vietnam on 14 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Frank Krieger was Killed In Action on 21 March 1969 from an explosive device while on a combat mission in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam / PFC Frank Krieger was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

During Operation TOAN THANG on March 21 in Hua Nghia Province, a patrol was in the vicinity of the hamlet of Xon Ba Lo on the south bank of the Song Vam Co river when a booby trapped mine was tripped, causing an explosion / Four soldiers were wounded by shrapnel and evacuated for treatment, one of the casualties was PFC Frank Krieger who died shortly after arriving at the 3d Field Hospital

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Krieger attended East High School and was drafted in July 1968 / Frank Anthony Krieger was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Frank Anthony Krieger is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29w, Line 101

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 199th Infantry Brigade (Light) is a unit of the United States Army which served in the Army Reserve from 1921 to 1940, in the active army from 1966 to 1970 (serving in the Vietnam War), briefly in 1991–1992 at Fort Lewis, and from 2007 as an active army training formation at Fort Moore / The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War / Nicknamed "the Redcatchers", the unit was hastily moved to Song Be, Vietnam on 10 December 1966 to provide an increased U.S. presence in the III Corps Tactical Zone and remained there until its return to Fort Benning on 11 October 1970 / The brigade was conducting Operation Uniontown in Dong Nai Province when the 1968 Tet Offensive began / It immediately began a defense of U.S. II Field Force headquarters at Long Binh Post against attacks by the VC 275th Regiment / One battalion was moved by helicopter to attack a Viet Cong command post at the Phu Tho racetrack inside Saigon, then engaged in house-to-house fighting in Cholon / During 1969, the 199th was responsible for the security of the region north and east of the capital, and in 1970 moved into the "Iron Triangle" when other units participated in the Cambodian Incursion / The brigade was deactivated in 1970 until it was reactivated in 1991 and 2006

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRONTHALER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PAUL

J.

Address: 139 ALLENDALE ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH AIR CALVARY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF 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:

Private First Class Paul John Kronthaler honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Paul Kronthaler was deployed to Vietnam on 31 March 1969 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / PFC Paul Kronthaler was Killed In Action on 6 May 1969 from bullet wounds sustained from enemy gunfire at Firebase Carolyn, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of May 6, 1969, Camp Carolyn, a remote U.S. artillery base near the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, was attacked by an estimated 300 North Vietnamese Army regulars who charged out of the bamboo forest surrounding the camp in a desperate attempt to overrun the position / The NVA broke through the barbed wire defenses at two points and occupied and held six of the perimeter bunkers and one of the gun positions for nearly two hours / The assault was preceded by a heavy barrage of rocket and mortar fire / After penetrating the perimeter, the enemy ran at the American bunkers, hurling grenades and satchel charges and firing AK-47's / The force of the attack drove out the U.S. soldiers, and the dugouts were immediately occupied by the NVA / The charge was stopped when the Americans shot holes into the fuel drums near the bunkers and ignited flowing rivers of gas to create a flaming barrier, which effectively blocked further enemy penetration / From that point, the Americans counterattacked with all available personnel, the officers involved being killed at the head of their troops / Artillerymen, supply and signal personnel, and engineers fought and died as emergency infantry reserves / Their counterattacks were hurled against both enemy penetrations, but the most violent fighting occurred on the northern side of Carolyn, where a seesaw battle



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

raged for possession of the 155mm howitzer position / During the course of the battle, this weapon exchanged hands 3 times in hand-to-hand fighting decided at close range with rifles and E-tools (entrenching tools, or shovels) / Another light howitzer section was caught in an enemy crossfire between a heavy machine gun and rifles until the U.S. artillerymen managed to turn their lowered muzzle and pump "Beehive" flechettes (anti-personnel weapon) into the enemy / All enemy automatic weapon fire against the howitzer was instantly silenced / As Cavalry counterattacks continued, the Americans reestablished the perimeter, and the enemy force began withdrawing, breaking contact at 6:00 AM / The action against Carolyn resulted in 10 U.S. killed, 62 wounded / Enemy losses were 101 killed and 29 captured / The lost Americans included Private First-Class Paul John Kronthaler

PFC Paul Kronthaler was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Kronthaler was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central School and had received his Bachelor's Degree from Brockport State College in June 1968, prior to joining the Army in October 1968 / Paul John Kronthaler was 22 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Paul John Kronthaler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 12

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

The 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 / During Operation Wayne Grey at Landing Zone Brace 3 March 1969 in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion Company "A" had at least 21 fatalities

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / Based at Fort Hood, Texas, the 1st Cavalry was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRYSZAK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

THEODORE

E.

Address: 814 WILLIAM STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH AIR FORCE, 14TH AIR COMMANDO WING, 4TH AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Colonel Theodore Eugene Kryszak honorably served in the United States Air Force / Colonel Theodore Kryszak was deployed to Thailand on 5 November 1965 as a Pilot / COL Theodore Kryszak was Killed In Action on 3 June 1966 when his aircraft was downed by enemy ground fire in Laos

CAPT Theodore E. Kryszak was the pilot of an AC-47 gunship assigned to the 4th Air Commando Squadron at Ubon Airfield, Thailand / The aircraft, dubbed "Puff the Magic Dragon" had evolved from earlier versions of the Douglas C-47 / Puff introduced a new principle to air attack in Vietnam / Troubled by difficulties in conducting nighttime defense, Capt. Ronald Terry of the U.S. Air Force Aeronautical Systems Division remembered reading about flying missionaries in Latin America who lowered baskets of supplies on a rope from a tightly circling airplane / Throughout the series of pylon turns, the basket remained suspended over a selected point on the ground / Tests proved it could, and could be extremely successful / Puff's "flare kicker" illuminated the target, then the pilot used a mark on the window to his left as a gun sight and circled slowly as three multi-barrel 7.62mm machine guns fired 18,000 rounds per minute from the door and two windows in the port side of the passenger compartment / The aircraft was called "Puff" after a popular song of the day, and because it resembled a dragon overhead with flames billowing from its guns / Men on the ground welcomed the presence of Puff and the later Spooky version, which was essentially the same as the Puff, because of its ability to concentrate a heavy dose of defensive fire in a surgically determined area / CAPT Kryszak's Puff was assigned a mission which took it over Khammouane Province, Laos on 3 June 1966 / His crew that day included 1LT Russell



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

D. Martin, COL Harding E. Smith, TSGT Harold E. Mullins, TSGT Luther L. Rose, and SSGT Ervin Warren / On such a crew, it was common for the officers to be the flight crew, while the sergeants acted as aerial gunners / On this crew, Mullins was the flight engineer / At a point about 10 miles east of Ban Pha Philang near the borders of Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces, CAPT Kryszak's aircraft was shot down / The Puff was seen to crash by another aircraft in the area / No parachutes were seen and no emergency radio beeper signals were heard, yet at least one of the men onboard the aircraft was known to have survived (COL Harding E. Smith, according to a list compiled by the National League of Families of POW/MIA in Southeast Asia survived this incident) / According to the Air Force, subsequent searches for the aircraft revealed the wreckage of the aircraft, but the crew could not be located / The entire crew of six men were missing and declared dead / The remains of CAPT Kryszak were recovered on 20 June 1995 and identified on 28 April 2003

Theodore Eugene Kryszak was posthumously promoted to Colonel

Colonel Theodore Kryszak was a 13 year veteran of the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand - Ubon Royal Thai AFB (RTAF) was a facility located near the city of Ubon Ratchathani, in Ubon Ratchathani Province, 303 miles northeast of Bangkok / Ubon RTAFB was established in the 1950s / Political considerations with regards to communist forces engaging in a civil war inside Laos and fears of the civil war spreading into Thailand led the Thai government to allow the United States to covertly use five Thai bases beginning in 1961 for the air defense of Thailand and to fly reconnaissance flights over Laos / Under Thailand's "gentleman's agreement" with the United States, RTAF base used by the USAF were commanded by Thai officers / Thai air police controlled access to the bases, along with USAF Security Police, who assisted them in base defense using sentry dogs, observation towers, and machine gun bunkers / The USAF forces at Ubon were under the command of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / From 1965 to 1974, the base was a front-line facility of the USAF during the Vietnam War / On 16 September 1974 the USAF forces at Ubon were inactivated and the facility turned over to the Thai Government

Miscellaneous:

Theodore Kryszak was a graduate of St. Stanislaus and Lake Shore Central School / Theodore Eugene Kryszak was 33 years old at the time of his passing and his remains have been laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

Theodore Eugene Kryszak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08e, Line 3

The Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea) (7 AF) is a Numbered Air Force of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea / The command's mission is to plan and direct air component operations in the Republic of Korea and in the Northwest Pacific / Established on 19 October 1940 as the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, the 7 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat unit in the Pacific Theater of World War II, providing air defense of the Hawaiian Islands and engaging in combat operations primarily in the Central Pacific AOR / It was assigned units engaging enemy forces in the Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Mariana Islands, and in the last major battle of the Pacific War, the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Battle of Okinawa / On 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam / From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force / In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations / The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / The Siege of Khe Sanh ("Operation Niagara") involved significant efforts by Seventh Air Force / More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day / At night, Douglas AC-47 Spooky gunships kept up fire against enemy troops / 7th AF oversaw the ongoing US air campaigns in Cambodia and Laos until the prohibition on offensive operations came into effect on 14 August 1973

The 14th Air Commando Wing was activated at Nha Trang on 8 March 1966 and was the host unit at the base until 15 October 1969 when it moved to Phan Rang Air Base / The airfield was managed by the 14th Combat Support Group / On its establishment the 14th Wing assumed control of all USAF squadrons at Nha Trang and the 1st Air Commando Squadron (before it moved to Pleiku Air Base) and it later assumed control of the 20th Helicopter Squadron / In January 1967 Flight C from the 4th Air Commando Squadron equipped with AC-47 Spooky gunships began operating from the base / In late December 1968, the 71st Special Operations Squadron equipped with AC-119G Shadow gunships arrived from Lockbourne Air Force Base and began operations from the base / On 1 June 1969 the 17th Special Operations Squadron equipped with AC-119G gunships was activated at Nha Trang and it replaced the 71st Special Operations Squadron which returned to Bakalar Air Force Base for inactivation / In mid-1969, as part of the process of Vietnamization, USAF units at Nha Trang began to relocate or inactivate and by October 1969 all USAF units had left the base and only 800 USAF personnel remained there to support operations until the handover of the base to the RVNAF in 1970

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KUPKOWSKI

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

JOHN

W.

Address: 5 BAKER COURT

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, 173RD AIRBORNE (ABN) BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

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:

Sergeant John Walter Kupkowski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT John Kupkowski was deployed to Vietnam on 22 October 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT John Kupkowski was Killed In Action on 28 February 1971 from small arms fire during combat action in Bình Định, South Vietnam

Two of Sergeant John Kupkowski's brothers, Walter Kupkowski, Jr. and Eugene W. Kupkowski, served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Kupkowski was a driver for Hackett's Trucking Company at Bethlehem Steel Corp before being drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1969 / John Walter Kupkowski was 26 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

John Walter Kupkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 11

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II, ten from Vietnam, and three from Afghanistan / The regiment's 1st and 2nd Battalions are active, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade

The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers"[1]) is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United States Army based in Vicenza, Italy. It is the United States European Command's conventional airborne strategic response force for Europe.[3]

Activated in 1915, the 173rd Infantry Brigade saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed in Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The brigade returned to the United States in 1972, where the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, were absorbed into the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery was reassigned to Division Artillery in the 101st / The remaining units of the 173rd were inactivated

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KURTOWICZ

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

D.

Address: 27 PARK RIDGE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

SPECIAL FORCES, B 33, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant James David Kurtowicz honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT James Kurtowicz was deployed to Vietnam on 1 July 1968 as a Combat Engineer / SSGT Kurtowicz was a paratrooper and a member of the elite U S Army's Special Forces, serving his second tour in Vietnam / SSGT James Kurtowicz was Killed In Action on 10 June 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds during combat actions in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam

SSGT James Kurtowicz was posthumously awarded the Silver Star medal for gallantry displayed during military operations involving conflict with enemy forces

Kurtowicz was trained as a demolition expert and an intelligence specialist before he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam, June 1968 / He received his basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ., and received his airborne training at Ft. Benning, Ga., before attending Special Forces School in Ft Bragg, NC.

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

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

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

Miscellaneous:

James Kurtowicz graduated from Burgard Vocational High School, attended post graduate courses at Kensington High School and graduated from Paul Smith College, Paul Smiths N.Y. before joining the Army in 1966 / Kurtowicz was a past counselor and a chevalier of the DeMolay and was an Eagle Scout / James David Kurtowicz was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint John Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James David Kurtowicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22w, Line 14

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 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (5th SFG (A), 5th Group) is one of the most decorated active-duty United States Army Special Forces groups / The 5th was constituted on 15 April 1960 / The 5th SFG (A) saw extensive action in the Vietnam War and played a pivotal role in the early months of Operation Enduring Freedom / 5th Group is designed to deploy and execute nine doctrinal missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, counter-insurgency, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, information operations, counterproliferation of weapon of mass destruction, and security force assistance / The 5th SFG was first deployed as a battlefield advisory group for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) / In 1964, the Group hired Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian producers to make fatigues, "boonie" hats, and other items



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

of Tigerstripe fabric / By February 1965, the war was in full swing and the Group was deployed as a mainstay battle force using unconventional and conventional warfare / The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was unique in the Vietnam War for its heavy usage of watercraft, particularly Hurricane Aircat airboats / It launched a wide-ranging campaign against Viet Cong forces in the Mekong Delta in July 1967 / Conducted with the South Vietnamese Army, civilian irregulars, and the U.S. Navy and Air Force, the campaign was built around the use of some 400 watercraft, including 84 airboats, as well as helicopters, Navy warships, and civilian vessels / In April 1970, 5th SFG began reducing its number of personnel in Vietnam / Later in November and December, further reductions in personnel and extraction of companies ensued, ending in a complete withdrawal of the group by March 1971

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

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LAGODZINSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

ROGER

T.

Address: 100 CLAUDE DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 557TH INFANTRY PLATOON COMBAT TRACKER

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR

AIR MEDAL (2)

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Roger Thomas Lagodzinski honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Roger Lagodzinski was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Roger Lagodzinski was Killed In Action on 19 May 1970 when an enemy booby trap exploded in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

SSG Roger Lagodzinski was on a Mission with an L Co. Ranger Team on 19 May 1970 / SSGT Lagodzinski stepped on a booby trap and was medevacked out / In the Phu Bai Evac, the doctors thought that they had stabilized him but did not realize that an artery was bleeding internally and SSG Roger Lagodzinski subsequently died

SSG Roger Lagodzinski was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Roger Lagodzinski attended John F. Kennedy High School in Sloan before joining the U.S. Army during his Senior year / Roger Thomas Lagodzinski was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Roger Thomas Lagodzinski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10w, Line 65

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Staff Sergeant Roger Thomas Lagodzinski was also awarded the following Military Honors:

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAMBY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: DERBY

CHARLES

M.

Address: 6697 DARBY ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Charles Michael Lamby honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Charles Lamby was deployed to Vietnam on 9 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Charles Lamby was Killed In Action on 30 March 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in combat action in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

On 30 March 1969, "A" Company encountered and engaged a hostile enemy force in Kon Tum Province / During the battle, sixteen men were killed and many more were wounded / SGT Charles Lamby was one of the casualties, killed by shrapnel wounds from a hostile explosive device

Sergeant Charles Lamby attended the Non-Commissioned Officers School at Ft. Benning, Georgia

Base Assignments:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Jackson , South Carolina - Fort Jackson is a United States Army installation, which the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) operates for Basic Combat Training (BCT), and is located within the city of Columbia, South Carolina / Fort Jackson was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army general and the seventh president of the United States (1829–1837) who was born in the border region of North and South Carolina / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

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

Miscellaneous:

Charles Lamby was a graduate of Lake Shore Central School / Lamby was a graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College and attended the University of Buffalo before entering the U.S. Army in 1967 / Charles Michael Lamby was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Vincent de Paul Cemetery, North Evans, New York

Charles Michael Lamby is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 28w, Line 92

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 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / Three 12th Infantry battalions deployed to South Vietnam with the 4th Division from August through October 1966 / The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was assigned, set up base camp at Dau Tieng in III Corps while the rest of the 4th Division was assigned to the Central Highlands in II Corps alongside the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division which



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

had arrived in December 1965 / The 1st and 3rd Battalions returned in December 1970 with the 4th Division to Fort Carson, Colorado / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LASSEN

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CLARENCE

DAVID

H.

Address: 24 ST. JOAN LANE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

23RD ARTILLERY GROUP, 2ND BATTALION, 32ND ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class David Henry Lassen honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 David Lassen was deployed to Vietnam 10 June 1969 as a Field Wireman / SP4 David Lassen was Killed In Action on 1 April 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds he sustained by hostile mortar or rocket fire at Firebase (Fsb) Illingsworth, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Fire Support Base Illingworth was a U.S. Army firebase located twenty-one miles northwest of Tay Ninh, approximately three miles from the Cambodian border / On 1 April 1970, the base was occupied by Companies "C" and "E", 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry; "B" Battery, 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery; "A" Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery; "A" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery; and "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery, comprising roughly 220 men / Ground surveillance radar detected strong movement outside the perimeter right before midnight, and at approximately 2:17 AM the North Vietnamese Army began pounding the base with over 300 rounds of mixed 122mm and 107mm rockets, 120mm, 82mm, and 60mm mortars, and 75mm recoilless rifle and B-40 rocket-propelled grenade rounds / Firebase Illingworth was then assaulted by a force of over 400 troops from the southwest / The enemy was engaged with unit weapons, artillery, aerial rocket artillery, night-illuminated "Nighthawk" attack helicopter sorties, and other air support / Fighting was fierce, particularly on the southwest portion of the firebase where friendly forces engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat in order to repel the assault / During the attack, an ammunition dump containing over 190 rounds of 8" ammunition exploded in a tremendous blast, destroying an 8" artillery gun and damaging radio antennas, rendering a temporary loss of communication / At 3:30 AM, the base was still receiving mortar and rocket fire although the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

ground attack had been broken / All incoming fire ceased at 4:30 AM, and search operations began / The attack resulted in twenty-five American soldiers killed and fifty-eight wounded, including Specialist Fourth-Class David Lassen / Sixty-five NVA were killed and numerous weapons and equipment were captured

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Lassen was a graduate of Clarence Central High School and the State University College at Farmingdale / Lassen entered the U.S. Army on 8 January 1969 / David Henry Lassen was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, New York

David Henry Lassen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12w, Line 70

The role of a Field Wireman in the Army is to supervise all phases of wire and cable communication system construction, installation, operation, and maintenance performed by subordinate personnel; Plan and conduct training for wire and cable-related communication; Provide liaison between staff elements, operations, and maintenance personnel; Determine requirements, assign duties, and coordinate activities of subordinate operations and maintenance personnel concerning communications-electronics and related equipment facilities and physical plants / Plan, supervise, and direct the installation, operation, and management of area or strategic communications systems and networks at all levels; monitor and report on communication system operation / Interpret and advise subordinates in complex communications equipment, circuit, or system situations

The 32nd Field Artillery Regiment is a distinguished and highly decorated field artillery regiment of the United States Army, first Constituted in 1918 / The 2nd Battery, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, the "Proud Americans", has existed, off and on, since 1918 / It has participated in World War II, Vietnam, and the current War on Terrorism

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LECASTRE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

KENNETH

J.

Address: 31 BREMEN STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, F COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Kenneth John LeCaste honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Kenneth LeCaste was deployed to Vietnam as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / CPL Kenneth LeCaste was Killed In Action on 9 May 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations around Hill 778 Khe Sanh, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 9 May 1967, Company "F" engaged a large enemy force in the mountainous area west of Hill 778 near Lang Xoa 11 kilometers west of the Khe Sanh Combat Base / The Marine walked into a NVA base camp that was taking heavy fire / Company "E" was on Hill 803 overlooking the battle and began to provide 81mm mortar support, however the effect was minimal because of the heavy tree cover / Helicopter gunships and fixed wing aircraft arrived in support / The engagement lasted throughout the day with twenty men from Company "F" being killed in the action and more being wounded / One of the casualties was Cpl Kenneth LeCaste, who was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

The Battle of Khe Sanh was conducted in northwestern Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam with roots in 1967, and extending viciously throughout 1968 / It was the longest, deadliest and most controversial battle of the Vietnam War / During the battle, a massive aerial bombardment campaign (Operation Niagara) was launched by the United States with over 100,000 tons of bombs / Five tons of bombs for every one of the 20,000 NVA soldiers in the fight / President Johnson was determined to hold Khe Sanh at all costs / The jungles surrounding



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Khe Sanh were burned and bombed barren and Khe Sanh became the major news headline coming out of Vietnam in late March 1968 / The cost on American lives lost has been estimated to be around 1000, with NVA loses ten times that number

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth LeCastre attended Grover Cleveland High School before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, at the age of 17 years old, on 9 July 1965 / Kenneth John LeCastre was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Kenneth John LeCastre is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 73

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

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

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines (2/3) was an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors / The battalion fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment and the 3rd Marine Division / In January 1961, 2/3 was redeployed to Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and reassigned to 3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force / From there the unit



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

deployed at various times between 1961 and 1967 as the Battalion Landing Team of the Seventh Fleet / In April 1965, 2/3 deployed to Da Nang in the Republic of Vietnam / They fought in Vietnam from April 1965 until October 1969 when 2/3 left South Vietnam and relocated to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and was reassigned to 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force / The battalion was deactivated in January 2022 as part of the Marine Corps' ongoing Force Design efforts

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

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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LEVULIS**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BLASDELL

JOHN

J.

Address: 38 FRONTIER DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

61ST MEDICAL BATTALION, 67TH MED GROUP, 498TH MED CO, AIR AMBULANCE (AA)

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

RVN ARMED FORCES HONOR MEDAL (2D CLASS)

COMBAT MEDIC BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John Joseph Levulis honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Levulis was deployed to Vietnam on 8 March 1970 as a Medical NCO (Combat Medic) / SP4 John Levulis died on 21 February 1971 from injuries sustained in the non-hostile related crash of the helicopter in which he was not a crew member in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam / All crew and passengers suffered mortal injuries, SP4 John Levulis was one of the casualties

At approximately 2150 hours on 20 February 1971, WO1 John V. Rauen (Dustoff 30) and his crew from the 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) were notified of an extended mission in support of armed operations west of Khe Sanh Airfield / At this time WO1 Rauen elected to refuel his aircraft, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 69-15273), and the tower cleared him to reposition from B-Med to POL (refueling station) / The aircraft was flown to POL and refueled without incident / Khe Sanh tower was again contacted, and Dustoff 30 was cleared from POL back to B-Med / Dustoff 30 departed to the north, and after obtaining a height of 60-80 feet, the aircraft was turned to a southwesterly heading / Upon reaching the approach end of Runway 09, the aircraft was seen to enter a fog bank which partially obscured the running lights and rotating beacon / Witnesses stated ground fog had been moving in and out of the area, causing the horizontal visibility to vary from zero-zero to unlimited / Shortly after the aircraft entered the fog, a hard turn left was observed by witnesses standing on the approach end of Runway 09 / Witnesses further stated they saw the aircraft losing altitude during the steep turn / No power loss or malfunction of the engine was noted / As the aircraft neared



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

the ground, the aircraft commander apparently realized what was happening and flared the aircraft in an attempt to decrease his rate of descent / The aircraft impacted the ground (aft left skid), descending at a rate of 650 feet per minute / The aircraft continued forward, flying approximately 45 feet then made ground contact a second time where the right skid made a furrow in the ground / As the right skid collapsed, the main rotor blade made contact with two fifty-five (55) gallon drums / The aircraft continued forward, and a Nomex flight suit sleeve was torn off one of the crew members by a jagged edge from one of the two fifty-five gallon drums / Also, at this point the head separated from the main rotor mast and as the aircraft began to roll, the tailboom separated from the main fuselage / The fuselage rolled another 250 feet leaving puddles of burning JP-4 fuel, and came to rest in the upright position facing north / The tailboom also continued forward coming to rest ninety feet NW of the fuselage / The aircraft commander, WO1 John M. Souther (left seat), was completely engulfed in flames, and therefore was not removed until the fire was at least partially extinguished / The pilot, WO1 Rauhen, was extracted from the main fuselage with the use of a front loader / He died 26 February 1971, from 3rd degree burns of the head and shoulders / The crew chief, SP4 Dennis E. Gilliland, was thrown clear of the main fuselage and landed near the tailboom / He died enroute from Khe Sanh to Quang Tri from 3rd degree burns over ninety percent of his body / The medic, SP4 John J. Levulis, was extracted from the right side of the cargo compartment critically burned / Specialist Fourth-Class John Levulis died on 21 February 1971

Specialist Four-Class John Joseph Levulis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement while engaged in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Levulis was a 1967 graduate of Frontier Central High School / Levulis attended Midwestern College in Dennison, Iowa for a year before he was drafted in 1969 / John Joseph Levulis was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

John Joseph Levulis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05w, Line 128

A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment / U.S. Army Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War

The 61st Medical Battalion (Area Support) provided Level I and II Combat Health Support and medical evacuation to III Corps units and other units including joint services as required; be prepared to rapidly reinforce/replace standard medical modules to division-level units; augment medical units with field surgical support; and provide combat stress control, preventive medicine, optometry and dental services to III Corps personnel / The 61st Medical Battalion was first constituted on 7 August 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 61st Medical Battalion, Motorized and activated on 25 September 1942 at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky / The Battalion was broken up 9 May 1944 and its elements reorganized and redesignated / Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment was reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 61st Medical Battalion / Companies A, B, and C, and the Clearing Company were reorganized and redesignated



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

as the 391st, 392nd, and 393rd Medical Collecting Companies, and the 643rd Clearing Company, respectively, each thereafter having separate lineages / The unit participated in the Normandy landings, receiving participation credit for the campaign, including a streamer with arrowhead, indicating participation in the initial assault / The Battalion also participated in the Northern France campaign / It was inactivated on 12 November 1945 in France after the end of the Second World War / The Battalion was allotted on 1 March 1963 to the Regular Army and reactivated on 26 March 1963 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky / The Battalion was later deployed to Vietnam, participating in 14 campaigns of the conflict there: Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase II, Counteroffensive Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase IV, Counteroffensive Phase V, Counteroffensive Phase VI, Tet 69/Counteroffensive, Summer-Fall 1969, Winter-Spring 1970, Sanctuary Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase VII, Consolidation I, and Consolidation II / After returning from Vietnam, the unit was inactivated on 18 February 1972 at Fort Lewis, Washington / After the events of 11 September 2001, the Battalion deployed elements in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq / These elements redeployed back to Fort Hood in August 2004 / In October 2005, the unit cased its colors in preparation for another deployment in support of the Global War on Terror (later termed Overseas Contingency Operations) / In September 2010, the 61st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional) returned from a year-long deployment in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

The 498th Medical Company (AA) was constituted in the Regular Army as Company C, 57th Medical Battalion, on 13 January 1941 and activated on 10 February 1941 at Fort Ord, California / On September 10th 1941, the unit was reorganized and redesignated as the 498th Collecting Company, and after serving in WWII, was inactivated at Camp Shanks, New York on 24 October 1945 / The 498th was redesignated as the 498th Preventive Medicine Company on 11 September 1950 and activated on 2 October of that year at Fort Sam Houston, Texas / The unit was reorganized and rededicated the 498th Medical Company on 19 June 1953 only to be inactivated on 24 September 1956 at Fort Meade, Maryland / On 23 September 1964, the unit was activated as an air ambulance company at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and deployed to Vietnam / Upon return to the states in October 1971 the unit was relocated to Fort Jackson, SC, Fort Stewart, GA and Fort Benning, GA

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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 Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Armed Forces Honor Medal was a military decoration of South Vietnam that was first created on 7 January 1953 / The medal was awarded in two classes and reached its height of bestowal during the Vietnam War / It was frequently awarded to members of foreign militaries, including military advisors of the United States Armed Forces / The Armed Forces Honor Medal was awarded to any member of the military who actively contributed to the formation and organization of the Vietnamese military in South Vietnam and who actively participating in cadre training of Vietnamese units / It was intended for non-combat achievements / The first-class medal was awarded to commissioned officers and the second class medals were awarded to warrant officers and enlisted personnel

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

The 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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Specialist Fourth-Class John Joseph Levulis was also awarded:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEWIS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ERIC

O.

Address: 1019 CLINTON STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Eric Oakley Lewis honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Eric Lewis was deployed to Vietnam on 20 November 1969 as a Rifleman / PFC Eric Lewis was Killed In Action on 2 February 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

PFC Eric Lewis and PFC Gardner of CUPP (Combined Unit Pacification Program) Team #4 were on board a civilian vehicle on HWY 535 in the vicinity of Phu Thai in Que Son District Quang traveling from their Platoon CP to their squad's position / The vehicle struck a buried box mine and the explosion completely destroyed the vehicle instantly killing PFC Eric Oakley / PFC Gardner was evacuated to the Stations Hospital NSA in DaNang where he died as a result of the multiple fragmentation wounds received in the blast

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Eric Oakley attended Emerson Vocational School / Oakley enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 29 November 1968 / Eric Oakley Lewis was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Limestone Cemetery, Limestone,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

New York

Eric Oakley Lewis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 94

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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: L'HUILLIER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

JOSEPH

A.

Address: WHITEHAVEN ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH AIR FORCE, 31ST TACTICAL FIGHTER WING, 136TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Joseph Andre L'huillier honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Joseph L'huillier was deployed to Vietnam as a Tactical Aircraft Pilot / Captain L'huillier was Killed In Action on 25 July 1968 when his aircraft crashed after getting hit by enemy ground fire in Quang Tin province, South Vietnam

On 25 July 1968, Captain Joseph A. L'Huillier was on a strike mission flying F-100 #54-1912 near Thon Sau, 15km S-SE of Heip Duc, South Vietnam / L'Huillier was fatally injured after he ejected from his disabled aircraft west of Chu Lai. Immediately after a high angle dive bomb delivery / Captain L'Huillier's aircraft was believed to have been hit by ground fire / Captain L'Huillier relayed that his aircraft controls were failing and then pulled up into a cloud deck and ejected / No one observed his ejection but his parachute was spotted on the ground a short while later / A rescue helicopter picked him up within 30 minutes, but he died before he could be hospitalized / His fatal injuries were probably incurred upon ejection or landing, with improper chute opening or seat involvement suspected

Captain Joseph L'Huillier enlisted in the Air Force, arrived at the Niagara Falls Air Base as a helicopter pilot and became a jet fighter pilot flying F-100 Aircraft for four years / CAPT L'Huillier accepted a commission in the Air Force about a month before the departure of the 107th Tactical Fighter Group to Vietnam in May 1968

Captain Joseph L'Huillier was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for acts of heroism or



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Andre L'huillier was 29 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

Joseph Andre L'huillier is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 50w, Line 7

The Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea) (7 AF) is a Numbered Air Force of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea / The command's mission is to plan and direct air component operations in the Republic of Korea and in the Northwest Pacific / Established on 19 October 1940 as the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, the 7 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat unit in the Pacific Theater of World War II, providing air defense of the Hawaiian Islands and engaging in combat operations primarily in the Central Pacific AOR / It was assigned units engaging enemy forces in the Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Mariana Islands, and in the last major battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of Okinawa / On 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam / From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force / In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations / The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / The Siege of Khe Sanh ("Operation Niagara") involved significant efforts by Seventh Air Force / More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day / At night, Douglas AC-47 Spooky gunships kept up fire against enemy troops / 7th AF oversaw the ongoing US air campaigns in Cambodia and Laos until the prohibition on offensive operations came into effect on 14 August 1973

The 31st Tactical Fighter Wing (31 FW) is a United States Air Force unit assigned to the United States Air Forces in Europe major command and the Third Air Force / The 31st Fighter Wing first activated in 1947 / The 31st wing arrived at Tuy Hoa, South Vietnam and was assigned to the 7th Air Force, on Christmas Day 1966 / The wing provided close air support and air interdiction for US and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units in the central region of the country / In 1968 they helped defend installations against enemy forces during the Tet Offensive and the siege of Khe Sanh and were later singled out for their outstanding contribution during the extraction of friendly forces from Kham Duc / They reached the 100,000 combat sortie milestone in September 1969 / The wing earned two Outstanding Unit Awards, one with a combat "V" device, a Presidential Unit Citation, two Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm and ten campaign streamers for action in Vietnam / On 15 October 1970, the wing returned to Homestead as part of the United States force reduction in Vietnam

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / The medal was established on July 2, 1926, and is currently awarded to any persons who, after April 6, 1917, distinguish



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

themselves by single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight / Both heroism and extraordinary achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUCCHESI

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GIANCARLO

Address: 20 MANHART STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, L COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Giancarlo Lucchesi honorably served in the United States Army LCPL Giancarlo Lucchesi was deployed on 17 February 1968 to Vietnam as a Rifleman / LCPL Giancarlo Lucchesi was Killed In Action on 30 April 1968 from an explosive device during combat operations in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

During the month of April 1968, the 3rd Battalion was conducting operations from the Thon Son Lam Combat Base and on 30 April, an Alpha Command Group, and three Companies deployed by airlift and convoy to participate on Operation KENTUCKY in northern Quang Tri Province / The Marines immediately made contact in the Cam Vu valley with NVA force some 5 kilometers northwest of Dong Ha / The battle would last for several days and thirty four men would be killed in the multiple engagement with many more wounded / LCpl Giancarlo Lucchesi was one of the casualties, on 30 April 1968 he was killed in action by a hostile grenade

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Giancarlo Lucchesi was born in Lucca, Provincia di Lucca, Toscana, Italy / Lucchesi left Canisius High School in his Junior year to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps / Giancarlo Lucchesi completed his high school education through correspondence while stationed in Portsmouth, Virginia / Lucchesi worked in the rectory of St. Michael's Church



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

before military service / Giancarlo "Calo" Lucchesi was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Giancarlo Lucchesi is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53e, Line 17

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUTHER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

ROBERT

B.

Address: 2600 BASELINE ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Robert Benjamin Luther honorably served in the United States Army CPL Robert Luther was deployed to Vietnam on 19 November 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Robert Luther was Killed In Action on 10 May 1970 when a helicopter crashed into his unit in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

On 10 May 1970, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 67-17673) from the 237th Medical Detachment was attempting a mountaintop medical evacuation ten kilometers (6.0 miles) southwest of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province, RVN, when hostile groundfire forced the pilot to abort his final approach and attempt a go around / For his second approach, aircraft commander WO1 Alfred J. Gaidis "dropped to the deck" a couple miles out, then screamed up the hill with 120 knots of airspeed at treetop level to try and sneak past the enemy gunners / His aircraft was caught in a .51 caliber crossfire causing him to abort a second time / As Gaidis peeled off the mountain, fuel streamed from the helicopter / The gunships escorting the medivac radioed for him to immediately set the medivac down / Gaidis' last transmission was "I think I can make it back" before the helicopter, now engulfed in flames, rolled inverted and crashed, killing all four crew members / The location where it went down on the north bank of the Cam Lo River was occupied by a column of infantrymen from "D" Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division / The troopers had just bequeathed responsibility for Fire Support Base Fuller to an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) unit and were making their way on foot to the Khe Gio Bridge / The flaming UH-1H hit the formation, killing two men, PFC James A. Blackmon and PFC Robert B. Luther / Both were posthumously promoted to Corporal / The lost medivac crew



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

included Gaidis, pilot 1LT Phillip N. Shmitz, crew chief SP4 John A. Largent, and medic SP4 Charles A. Covey

CPL Robert Luther was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Luther graduated from Grand Island High School in 1966 where he was a varsity wrestler and football player / Luther also graduated from Erie County Technical Institute before entering the U.S. Army in 1968 / Robert Benjamin Luther was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Trinity United Methodist Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

Robert Benjamin Luther is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10w, Line 13

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

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

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

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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Corporal Robert Luther was also awarded:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MACK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WILLIAM

J.

Address: 98 SMITH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William James Mack honorably served in the United States Army / PFC William Mack was deployed to Vietnam on 14 September 1966 as a Food Service Specialist / PFC William Mack was Killed In Action on 20 January 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Mack worked briefly with the Job Corps in Georgia before entering the U.S. Army in 1966 / William James Mack was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

William James Mack is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14e, Line 58

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

preparation and cooking; basic nutrition; storage of meats, poultry, and other perishable items; dining service operations; and food and supply ordering

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 35th Infantry Regiment ("Cacti") was created on 1 July 1916 at Douglas, Arizona from elements of the 11th, 18th and 22nd Infantry Regiments / The 35th served on the Mexico–US border during the First World War and was stationed at Nogales, Arizona in 1918 / It fought a border skirmish on 27 August 1918 during the Battle of Ambos Nogales / In World War II, Korea, and Vietnam it served as part of the 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) Division / In August 1965, elements of the 35th Infantry started their rotation into the Vietnam War, arriving in South Vietnam / The 1st and 2d battalions, along with the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery provided the core combat units of the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and were deployed to the Central Highlands at Pleiku / Final units arrived by Christmas 1965 / The battalions of the 35th Infantry were heavily engaged from January 1966 until 1972 throughout the I Corps and II Corps areas of operations (the Central Highlands and central coastal areas of Vietnam) / In August 1967, operational control of the two battalions of the 35th Infantry and all of the other parts of the 3d Brigade were transferred from the 25th Infantry Division to the 4th Infantry Division / From May through June 1970, the battalions of the 35th Infantry participated in the Incursion operations against enemy sanctuaries located in Cambodia, seizing thousands of tons of supplies and hundreds of weapons / Following its return from Cambodia to South Vietnam, the division resumed its place in the Vietnamization Program / By late December 1970, elements of the 35th Infantry were able to begin redeployment to Schofield Barracks / The 35th Infantry had three Medal of Honor recipients in Vietnam

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MADISON, JR.**
HENRY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 50 LAUREL STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Henry Madison, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Henry Madison was deployed to Vietnam on 7 July 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Henry Madison was Killed In Action on 27 February 1969 from chest wounds received from enemy small arms fire during combat action in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry Madison was born in Emella, Alabama before moving to Buffalo / Madison attended Emerson Vocational High School before he entered the U.S. Army in January 1968 / Henry Madison, Jr. was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Henry Madison, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 82

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

equivalent higher headquarters



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MAKOWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WILLIAM

J.

Address: 36 ANTWERP STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William John Makowski honorably served in the United States Army PFC William Makowski was deployed to Vietnam on 19 September 1971 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC William Makowski was Killed In Action on 21 October 1971 from wounds suffered during enemy small arms fire in Binh Thuy Province, South Vietnam / PFC Makowski was killed in an ambush while engaged in destroying enemy bunkers

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Makowski was a 1968 graduate of Kensington Senior High School / After graduation Makowski worked for Arcata Graphics, Buffalo Division / William Makowski was a member of the National Guard until he entered the Army in April 1970 / William John Makowski was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

William John Makowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 02w, Line 46

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: MALIN

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ANGOLA

MICHAEL

L.

Address: 8720 NORTH MAIN STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Lee Malin honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Michael Malin was deployed to Vietnam on 16 November 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Michael Malin was Killed In Action on 25 March 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat action at Bloody Ridge (Dong a Tay), 9 km SW of Fire Support Base Veghel, 16 km North of A Shau Village, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER, a foray by the 101st Airborne Division into the A Shau Valley, began on 01 Mar 1969, but bad weather impeded the build-up / Since the North Vietnamese Army was present in force, there was ample opportunity for contact / The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry pursued an enemy battalion through the valley for several weeks until the NVA took a stand atop the ridgeline at Dong A Tay / In a series of hard-fought battles, Alpha and Bravo Companies, 1/502, captured the crest of what was now known as "Bloody Ridge" / The fighting on 25 March cost 7 American lives from the 1/502nd, including Specialist Fourth-Class Michael Malin

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Michael Malin was a graduate of Lake Shore Central School / Malin was enrolled at the State University College of Buffalo prior to his enlistment into the U.S. Army on 7 February 1968 / Michael Lee Malin was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Michael Lee Malin is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C.- Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 28w, Line 38

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

Specialist Fourth-Class Micahel Lee Malin 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MANN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

EDWARD

E.

Address: 389 FOREST AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 16TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Edward Emil Manns honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Edward Manns was deployed to Vietnam on 5 September 1966 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / SGT Edward Manns was Killed In Action on 2 February 1967 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during a firefight with Viet Cong forces in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Sergeant Edward Manns served seven years in the military, stationed in Germany before his tour in Vietnam / Manns had become a U.S. Army Ranger

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Edward Manns attended elementary schools in Buffalo and latter attended Attica Central Senior High School /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Edward Emil Manns was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Edward Emil Manns is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14e, Line 108

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

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three 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 16th Infantry Regiment ("Semper Paratus") is a regiment in the United States Army and has traditionally been a part of the 1st Infantry Division / The 16th Infantry was constituted as the 11th U.S. Infantry on 4 May 1861 / During the Spanish-American War, the 16th participated in the capture of San Juan Hill as part of the First Brigade, First Division of the V Corps / During World War I, The 16th participated in the Battle of Argonne Forest and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign / The 16th fought throughout France during World War II / In 443 days of combat, the 16th Infantry had sustained 1,250 officers and men killed in combat / An additional 6,278 were wounded or missing in action / Its men had earned four Medals of Honor, 87 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 1,926 Silver Stars / Additionally, the regiment, or its subordinate units, was awarded five presidential unit citations and two distinguished unit citations from the United States, two Croix de Guerre and the Médaille militaire from the government of France, and the Belgian Fourragere and two citations from the government of Belgium / In 1965, the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment became the first elements of the Division to deploy to South Vietnam / The 16th conducted "Search and Destroy" operations during Operations Mastiff, Bushmaster, Abilene, Birmingham, El Paso, Attleboro, Cedar Falls and Junction City / The 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam, on 10 October 1965 with the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division / The battalion was initially moved to Camp Ben Cat in Phuoc Vinh Province north of Saigon / The battalion joined in a number of combat operations such as Bear Trap, Friendship, Kentucky Cougar, Iron Danger and Toan Thang IV / The First and Second battalions of the 16th Infantry fought in almost every campaign of the Vietnam War / In April 1970, the 1st/16th was withdrawn from Vietnam along with the rest of the 1st Infantry Division and the bulk of the division was relocated to Fort Riley, Kansas / During almost five years of combat, the 16th Infantry Regiment lost over 560 men, the regiment's soldiers were awarded 2 Medals of Honor (both posthumous), 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, and hundreds of Silver and Bronze Star Medals / The regiment was awarded 11 campaign streamers, as well as 2 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (with Palm) Streamers for 1965-1968 and 1969 and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal (First Class) Streamer for 1965–1970 / In addition, C Company, 2nd Battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Award Streamer for its actions at the battle of Courtenay Plantation

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

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

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

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MARCHESE**
THOMAS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 210 WESTON AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, D 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 Thomas Vincent Marchese honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Thomas Marchese was deployed to Vietnam on 17 October 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Thomas Marchese was Killed In Action on 12 December 1969 from wounds suffered during combat operations in Hoa Nghia Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland - Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is a U.S. Army facility located adjacent to Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland / APG is the U.S. Army's oldest active proving ground, established on 20 October 1917, six months after the U.S. entered World War I / Its location allowed design and testing of ordnance material to take place near contemporary industrial and shipping centers / The proving ground was created as a successor to the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, which was too small for some of the larger weapons being tested / At the peak of World War II, APG had billeting space for 2,348 officers and 24,189 enlisted



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

personnel

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Marchese graduated from Bishop Turner High School in 1964 / Marchese was a graduate of the University of Buffalo / Thomas Vincent Marchese was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Thomas Vincent Marchese is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 51

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

case posthumously

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MASON**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

WILLIAM

P.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY BRIGADE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

PARACHUTIST BADGE

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First Class William Paul (Bill) Mason honorably served in the United States Army / PFC William Mason was deployed to Tuy Hoa, Vietnam in 30 November 1967 as an Airborne Qualified Medical Corpsman / PFC William Mason was Killed in Action on 4 March 1968 when the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) he was in, was hit by enemy rocket fire and suffered fatal burns to the body / PFC William Mason was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, posthumously

PFC William Mason distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism when he moved under intense enemy fire from one armored vehicle to another giving medical aid to the wounded / After evacuating all the wounded, PFC Mason rejoined the firefight and manned a machine gun / Another armored vehicle was hit by rocket fire, PFC Mason left his own Armored Personnel Vehicle and ran approximately 766 yards to the burning vehicle and entered the vehicle to aid a wounded man inside / While attempting to carry the wounded soldier to safety, the armored vehicle received a direct hit, causing it to explode, killing Private First-Class William Mason

Base Assignments:

Tuy Hòa Base, Vietnam - Tuy Hòa Base Camp (also known as Phú Hiệp Airfield or Phú Hiệp Army Airfield) is a former U.S. Army base southeast of Tuy Hòa in Phú Yên Province Vietnam / The base was used by the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division comprising of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry; and the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry from October 1966 to June 1967 / The 173rd Airborne Brigade was based at Tuy Hòa from October–November 1967 / Once the U.S. Air Force ceased operations at Tuy Hòa Air Base in October 1970



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

the U.S. Army units based at Tuy Hòa/Phú Hiệp moved to Tuy Hòa Air Base and the facility was closed

Miscellaneous:

William Mason was born in Horsham, Pennsylvania and moved to Orchard Park / Mason graduated from Orchard Park High School in 1965, where he played varsity football and basketball / Mason attended Hiram Scott College (Scottsbluff, Nebraska) before enlisting in the United States Army / William Paul (Bill) Mason was KIA on 4 March 1968 at the age of 20 years old and is interred at Whitemarsh Memorial Cemetery, Flourtown, Pennsylvania

William Paul Mason is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42e, Line 68

The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers") is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United States Army / Activated in 1915, as the 173rd Infantry Brigade, the unit saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed in Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The 173rd Airborne Brigade has received 21 campaign streamers and several unit awards, including the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions during the Battle of Dak To during the Vietnam War

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

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

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The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961 / Gallantry Cross with Palm: cited at the Armed Forces level

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

The 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 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MASSARI**
RICHARD D.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address: 68 OXFORD TERRACE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON, 8TH TAC FIGHTER WING, 7TH AIR FORCE

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain Richard Dennis Massari honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Richard Massari was deployed to Thailand on 24 October 1969 as a F-4 Phantom Fighter Pilot / Captain Massari was on his second tour of duty in Southeast Asia where he was assigned to and served with the 25th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8th TAC Fighter Wing, 7th Air Force / CAPT Richard Massari died on 12 June 1970 when his aircraft crashed in Binh Dinh Province, Thailand

On 12 June 1970, a U.S. Air Force F-4D Phantom II (#66-8770) from the 25th Tactical Fighter Squadron was on approach to Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base when it suffered an engine failure and crashed thirteen miles from the air base into a rice field at Ban Tae Yai, Muang District, Ubon Ratchatani Province / The aircraft commander, pilot CAPT Richard D. Massari, was killed / A second crewman successfully ejected and was recovered

CAPT Massari as on his second tour of duty in Southeast Asia / During his first tour, Massari had previously spent a year at Cam Rahn Bay, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Davis–Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona - Davis–Monthan AFB (DM AFB) is a United States Air Force base 5 miles (southeast of downtown Tucson, Arizona / It was established in 1925 as Davis–Monthan Landing Field / The base is best known as the location of the Air Force Materiel Command's 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (309 AMARG), the aircraft boneyard for all excess military and U.S. government aircraft and aerospace vehicles



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand - Ubon Royal Thai AFB (RTAF) was a facility located near the city of Ubon Ratchathani, in Ubon Ratchathani Province, 303 miles northeast of Bangkok / Ubon RTAFB was established in the 1950s / Political considerations with regards to communist forces engaging in a civil war inside Laos and fears of the civil war spreading into Thailand led the Thai government to allow the United States to covertly use five Thai bases beginning in 1961 for the air defense of Thailand and to fly reconnaissance flights over Laos / Under Thailand's "gentleman's agreement" with the United States, RTAF base used by the USAF were commanded by Thai officers / Thai air police controlled access to the bases, along with USAF Security Police, who assisted them in base defense using sentry dogs, observation towers, and machine gun bunkers / The USAF forces at Ubon were under the command of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / From 1965 to 1974, the base was a front-line facility of the USAF during the Vietnam War / On 16 September 1974 the USAF forces at Ubon were inactivated and the facility turned over to the Thai Government

Cam Ranh Air Force Base, Vietnam - Located on Cam Ranh Bay in Khánh Hòa Province, Vietnam, it was one of several air bases built and used by the United States Air Force (USAF) during the Vietnam War / Cam Ranh Air Force Base was part of the large Cam Ranh Bay logistics facility built by the United States / It was the major military seaport used by the United States for the offloading of supplies, military equipment and as a major Naval base / Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force units all had compounds and units assigned to the Cam Ranh Bay facility from its opening in 1965 until its closure in 1972 as part of the drawdown of United States military forces in South Vietnam

Miscellaneous:

Richard Massari was a 1960 graduate of Lackawanna High School / Massari received his Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSAE) Degree from the University of Alabama in 1965 / Massari joined the U.S. Air Force in 1966 / Massari also attended the State University of New York at Buffalo / Richard Dennis Massari was 28 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Hope Cemetery and Mausoleum, Tucson, Arizona

Richard Dennis Massari is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 48

The 25th Fighter Squadron is part of the US Air Force's 51st Operations Group, 51st Fighter Wing, at Osan Air Base, South Korea / It operates the Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft conducting close air support missions / The squadron was originally created as the 25th Pursuit Squadron and activated at Hamilton Field, California on 15 January 1941 / During World War II, the 25th Fighter Squadron encountered more combat activity than any other unit within the 51st Fighter Group during the war / On 31 May 1968, the 25th was assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing and stationed at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, later moving to Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, seeing combat in the skies of Vietnam / Flying McDonnell F-4 Phantom II aircraft, the 25th received the Presidential Unit Citation (1971), the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (1967–1973), and five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards (1967–1973) / When the Air Force began its withdrawal from Thailand, the 25th was reassigned the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, where it remained until 1 February 1981

The United States Air Force 8th Fighter Wing is the host unit at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea and is



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

assigned to Seventh Air Force / Seventh Air Force falls under Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / The Wing's 8th Operations Group is the successor of the 8th Pursuit Group, one of the 15 original combat air groups formed by the Army before World War II / Established in Japan after World War II in 1948, the wing flew combat missions throughout the Korean War / Redesignated the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing in 1958, it remained in Japan until 1964 / The 8th Fighter Wing completed a move to Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand in September 1965 to commence combat operations in the Vietnam War / In December 1965, the wing completed the move to Ubon / At Ubon, the 8th TFW carried out its wartime mission as it led the way for other tactical Air Force fighter units during the Vietnam War / The wing carried out a number of roles during combat / By the end of 1966, aircrews assigned to the 8th TFW flew nearly 14,000 combat missions into Vietnam / In December 1972, the 8th became involved in Operation Linebacker II / Designed to make the enemy more serious about the peace negotiations in progress at Paris, France, the 8th TFW launched 524 sorties for bombing missions against North Vietnam between 18 and 31 December 1972 / Early in 1973, the mission included air interdiction into Laos against communist insurgents in Cambodia / All combat operations ended on 15 August 1973

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MATHIS**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

R.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 4TH BATTALION, 9TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Rufus Mathis honorably served in the United States Army / PFC James Mathis was deployed to Vietnam on 12 February 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC James Mathis was Killed In Action on 2 March 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quoi Xuah, Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

On the morning of 2 March 1968, the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division "Manchus" were preparing for a ground assault on an area of previous contact when Charlie Company was ambushed by a reinforced Viet Cong company at a bridge on Route 248 by the Quoi Xuah hamlet close to Hoc Mon village, fourteen kilometers (8.4 miles) northwest of Saigon in Gia Dinh Province, RVN / The ninety-two members of Charlie Company were rushing along the road without flank security to catch up with the rest of the battalion when they ran into the ambush / Within eight minutes, forty-nine Americans were dead or dying and twenty-eight others wounded / The enemy force, concealed in prepared positions, employed small arms, automatic weapons, and Claymore mines / Gunships, artillery, and air strikes supported the Manchus but sniper fire by rear guard elements prevented Alpha, Bravo, and Delta companies from reinforcing the besieged Charlie Company for much of the day / The Americans who perished in battle included Private First-Class James Mathis

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

James Mathis was a 1960 graduate of Carver High School in Gadsden, Alabama before moving to Buffalo / James Rufus Mathis was 26 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lincoln Hill Cemetery in Gadsden, Alabama

James Rufus Mathis is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42e, Line 36

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

On 29 April 1966, the Fourth Battalion, 9th Infantry landed in Vung Tau, Vietnam / Within a few days, the “Manchus” were at Cu Chi to take their place along other elements of the “Tropic Lightning” Division in combat / Notable battalion-size operations conducted by the “Manchu” include Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Helemano, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry

In the four years and six months service in Vietnam fellow Manchus carried on the regimental tradition arising from deeds of Valor, Acts of Courage and Moments of Self Sacrifice. The 4th Battalion Manchus suffered many casualties of wounded and those that paid the supreme sacrifice.

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MAY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

W.

Address: 36 COCHRANE STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY, TROOP B

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

NEW YORK CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Walter May honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Robert May was deployed to Vietnam on 30 March 1967 as an Infantry Operations and Intelligence Specialist / SP4 Robert May was Killed In Action on 12 February 1968 from an exploding land mine during combat operations outside Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Binh Duong province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to house a large portion of the United States' official gold reserves / It is named in honor of Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery in the American Revolutionary War and the first United States Secretary of War / A new Armored Force was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox with the 7th Cavalry Brigade becoming the 1st Armored Division / The Armored Force School and the Armored Force Replacement Center were also sited at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Knox in October 1940, and their successors remained there until 2010, when the Armor School moved to Fort Benning, Georgia / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the American tanks of the day; the last was the M1 Abrams main battle tank / In 2011, the U.S. Army Armor School moved to Fort Moore, Georgia, where the Infantry School is also based

Miscellaneous:

Robert May graduated from Burgard High School / May enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 1966 / Robert Walter May was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Robert Walter May is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39e, Line 8

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

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The 4th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment, whose lineage is traced back to the mid-19th century / It was one of the most effective units of the Army against American Indians on the Texas frontier / Today, the regiment exists as separate squadrons within the U.S. Army / The 1st Squadron of the 4th Cavalry's official nickname is "Quarterhorse", which alludes to its 1/4 Cav designation / The 3rd Squadron of the 4th Cavalry's official nickname is "Raiders" / Today, the "1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry" and "5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry" are parts of the 1st Infantry Division, while the "3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry" serves as part of the 25th Infantry Division / The 4th Cavalry Regiment served in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War II / 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry (1-4 Cavalry, popularly called "Quarterhorse") was assigned to be the divisional reconnaissance squadron of the 1st Infantry Division based at Di An, South Vietnam / It arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 7 October 1965, making it the first element of the 4th Cavalry to deploy to Vietnam / On 24 February 1966, Troop B fought a stiff skirmish with the VC and repulsed the enemy / On 30 June 1966, HQ, Troops B, C, D



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

and C Company 2-18 Infantry engaged the VC 271st Regiment while conducting reconnaissance and managed to kill 300 VC during the seven-hour battle / Throughout the Vietnam War, the troopers of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment participated in numerous battle and operations including; Operation Niagara, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Williston, Operation Tucson-Delta, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, Operation Shenandoah II, the Tet Offensive, and many more in numerous small villages along the Cambodia-South Vietnam border, and throughout South Vietnam / The 1st Squadron was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its heroism in Binh Long Province as well as a Valorous Unit Award for Binh Dong Province

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The NYS Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MAY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

THOMAS

A.

Address: 125 CLARENCE AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Thomas Andrew May honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Thomas May was deployed to Vietnam on 16 October 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Thomas May was Killed In Action on 11 December 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Hua Nghia Province, South Vietnam

On 11 December 1969, during a combat operation in Hua Nghia Province, Company C was ambushed by the enemy / During the fire fight, CPL May was wounded by hostile rifle fire and evacuated to a Medical Facility / CPL Tomas May died the same day from the wounds he has sustained

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland - Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is a U.S. Army facility located adjacent to Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland / APG is the U.S. Army's oldest active proving ground, established on 20



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

October 1917, six months after the U.S. entered World War I / Its location allowed design and testing of ordnance material to take place near contemporary industrial and shipping centers / The proving ground was created as a successor to the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, which was too small for some of the larger weapons being tested / At the peak of World War II, APG had billeting space for 2,348 officers and 24,189 enlisted personnel

Miscellaneous:

Thomas May was a 1967 graduate of Bennett High School / May was employed by Harvest Markets Inc. and Republic Steel prior to entering the U.S. Army / Thomas Andrew May was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Thomas Andrew May is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 48.

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 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment, entered the Vietnam War in January, 1966 / During their five-year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned two valorous unit citations, and was one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The regiment participated in Operation Junction City and fought during the Tet Offensive and the May Offensive / The regiment finally returned to Hawaii in April, 1971 / More recently the regiment deployed to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: MCCARTHY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ALDEN

ROBERT

A.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Robert Alan McCarthy honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Robert McCarthy was deployed to Vietnam on 13 February 1969 as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / PFC Robert McCarthy was Killed In Action on 25 February 1969 from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During the end of February, the Battalion was responsible for the defense of FSB (Fire Support Base) Neville, FSB Russell, and FSB Alpine in Quang Tri Province / Surrounded by the NVA, FSB Neville came under attack at 2330 hours on 24 February 1969 with the enemy penetrating Company H defenses by an enemy sapper unit / Sporadic fighting continued until dawn until the enemy withdrew into the mountainous terrain / As the Marines on Firebase (FSB) Neville were under siege, at 0350 hours of 25 February 1969, the enemy launched an attack the Marines of Company E and Battery H, at FSB Russell / Following a barrage of 82 mm mortars, a ground attack was launched breaching the defensive perimeter under the cover of the mortar fire / Firing RPG's and automatic weapons, the attackers advanced in waves but were unable to completely overrun the Marines position / The battle lasted thorough out the night until day break when the enemy withdrew / The battles with the enemy had been costly, at both Fire Support Bases the Marines gathered their casualties, thirty men had been killed in action and thirty eight had been wounded; PFC Robert McCarthy was one of the Marines killed during the battle as a result of hostile mortar fire



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East

Miscellaneous:

Robert McCarthy was a 1968 graduate of Alden Central School / McCarthy enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 27 July 1968 / Robert Alan McCarthy was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint John the Baptist Cemetery, Alden, New York

Robert Alan McCarthy is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 54

An Anti-tank Assaultman was a front-line military job that supported ground infantry and tasked with tankbusting and breaching / In the past, Marine Corps Infantry Assault had been referred to as "grunts" for their hard, grueling work in combat / Assaultman were responsible for anti-armor operations and tactical vehicle operations / These servicemembers provided medium and heavy anti-armor fire in support of the infantry battalion



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / The battalion, nicknamed the Magnificent Bastards from the Vietnam War, is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and is a part of the 5th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the battalion's first assignment was to take part in the assault on Emirau Island / During the remainder of World War II, the battalion saw action in the Battles of Guam (2/4 was the first ashore) and of Okinawa / On Okinawa, the battalion was involved in the fighting for the Motobu Peninsula, the capture of Naha, and the assault on the Oruku Peninsula / In May 1965 the 2nd Battalion landed at Landing Zone (LZ) Blue (west of Green Beach) near Chu Lai / The first combined land operation of the war was Operation Lien Ket 4 between 2/4 and 3rd Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Marine Division on 28 July / The first major engagement for the battalion was Operation Starlite (the first regimental sized battle for American forces since the Korean War) in August 1965 / Beginning in 1966, combat operations measurably increased with the battalion participating in Operation Double Eagle and Operation Hastings, a coordinated Marine/Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) search and destroy mission / The 1968 Tet Offensive resulted in an increase in fighting along the DMZ / A bitter clash started 30 April 1968 and ran through 3 May 1968 between 2/4 and the PAVN 320th Division (8,000 to 10,000 soldiers) that broke out northeast of Dong Ha / To protect the base and also the 3rd Marine Division headquarters, 2/4 reinforced by B/1/3 was moved forward to seize the fortified village and area around Dai Do / The three day Battle of Dai Do was costly for both sides / The PAVN lost nearly 1,500 killed, while 2/4 suffered 81 dead and 397 wounded / By 15 May 1968 the PAVN were driven back north across the DMZ / Total losses for the Marines were 233 killed and 821 wounded / PAVN losses were put at 2,945 killed and 47 POW's / The other major operations that 2/4 was involved in were Operation Lancaster II ran from 21 January to 23 November 1968 / This was a multiple battalion operation was to secure Route 9 between Cam Lo and Ca Lu / Total losses were 359 marines killed 1,713 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 1,801 / Operation Napoleon/Saline ran from 29 February 1968 to 12 September 1968 and was another multi-battalion operation that covered the Cua Viet river area near the South China Sea / Total losses were put at 117 marines killed; PAVN losses were put at 3,495 / Operation Scotland II was a multi-battalion operation that ran from 15 April 1968 to 28 February 1969 in the Khe Sanh area / Total losses were put at 435 marines killed 2,396 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 3,304 / On 6 November 1969, 2/4 was withdrawn to Okinawa as part of the United States policy of gradually turning the war over to the South Vietnamese

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MCCONNELL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GERARD

R.

Address: 65 IDEAL STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Gerard Robert McConnell honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Gerald McConnell was deployed at Vietnam on 21 September 1966 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / PFC Gerard McConnell was Killed In Action on 28 October 1966 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerard McConnell was a graduate of Central Technical High School and attended the State University of Buffalo prior to entering the U.S. Army / Gerard Robert McConnell was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Cheektowaga, New York

Gerard Robert McConnell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 124

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MCCOY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

G.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James Glendale McCoy honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC James McCoy was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC James McCoy was Killed In Action on 2 July 1967 from enemy small arms fire during an ambush on Route 561 NE of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James McCoy was a native of Clinton, North Carolina but enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in Buffalo, New York / James Glendale McCoy was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Clinton, North Carolina

James Glendale McCoy is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 110

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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 /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MCGUIRE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

MICHAEL

K.

Address: 123 SAGE AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: AN

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

7TH FLEET, TASK FORCE (TK) 77, USS HANCOCK (CVA-19)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Airman Michael Kelly McGuire honorably served in the United States Navy / Airman McGuire was assigned to the USS Hancock / AN Michael McGuire died on 4 January 1966 from an accident onboard ship, offshore, Military Region 1, South Vietnam

Airman Michael K. McGuire was an airman serving on the aircraft carrier USS Hancock (CV-19) / On 4 January 1966, the Hancock was underway in the South China Sea conducting flight operations / At 0700 hours, AN McGuire was working on the flight deck when he was critically injured after he inadvertently walked into the propeller of an aircraft which was turning up / McGuire suffered a depressed skull fracture and was treated in surgery where a transfusion of blood was administered / He was evacuated to the U.S. Air Force Hospital at Clark Air Base in the Philippines where he died 16 February 1966

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael McGuire enlisted in the U.S., Navy on 30 July 1962 / Michael Kelly McGuire was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Michael Kelly McGuire is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 06e, Line 78

The duties performed by a Navy Airman include repairing, maintaining and stowing aircraft and associated equipment in preparation for flight operations, working with qualified personnel to gain job training and experience and performing ground and deck duties involved in the take-off and landing of aircraft

USS Hancock (CV/CVA-19) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II for the United States Navy / Hancock was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the namesake of Founding Father John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress and first governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts / Hancock was commissioned on 15 April 1944 and during World War II, served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, earning four battle stars / During the Vietnam War, the USS Hancock reached Japan on 19 November 1964 and soon was on patrol at Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin / She remained active in Vietnamese waters until heading for home early in the spring of 1965 but returning to the war zone in November 1965 / She was on patrol off Vietnam on 16 December 1965; and, but for brief respites at Hong Kong, the Philippines, or Japan, Hancock remained on station launching her planes for strikes at enemy positions ashore until returning to Alameda on 1 August 1966 / Her outstanding record during this combat tour won her the Navy Unit Commendation / Following operations off the West Coast, Hancock returned to Vietnam early in 1967 and resumed her strikes against Communist positions / After fighting during most of the first half of 1967, she returned to Alameda on 22 July 1967 / Aircraft from Hancock, along with those from USS Ranger and USS Oriskany, joined with other planes for air strikes against North Vietnamese missile and antiaircraft sites south of the 19th parallel in response to attacks on unarmed U.S. reconnaissance aircraft on 21–22 November 1970 / Hancock, along with USS Coral Sea, was back on Yankee Station by 30 March 1972 when North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam / In response to the invasion, Naval aircraft from Hancock and other carriers flew tactical sorties during Operation Freedom Train against military and logistics targets in the southern part of North Vietnam / From 25 to 30 April 1972, aircraft from the USS Hancock struck enemy-held territory around Kontum and Pleiku / Hancock then took part in Operation Eagle Pull, the evacuation of Phnom Penh on 12 April 1975, Operation Frequent Wind and the evacuation of Saigon on 29–30 April 1975 / The USS Hancock was decommissioned on 30 January 1976 / She was stricken from the Navy list the following day, and sold for scrap by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) on 1 September 1976 / The Hancock earned 13 battle stars for service in Vietnam

The Seventh Fleet is a numbered fleet of the United States Navy / It is headquartered at U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan and is part of the United States Pacific Fleet / At present, it is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, with 50 to 70 ships, 150 aircraft and 27,000 Sailors and Marines / Its principal responsibilities are to provide joint command in natural disaster or military operations and operational command of all U.S. naval forces in the region / On 12 February 1965, USS Salisbury Sound (AV-13) became the first U.S. Navy ship to conduct operations inside Vietnam coastal waters.[9] Salisbury Sound set up a seadrome in Da Nang Bay and conducted seaplane patrols in support of Operation Flaming Dart, the bombing of North Vietnamese army camps / Operating primarily from Yankee Station off the north coast of Vietnam and the south coast of Vietnam in the South China Sea, Seventh Fleet was organized into a series of task forces, which included providing air support to US forces in South Vietnam, bombing North Vietnamese army camps, providing naval gunfire support and removing naval mines dropped in Haiphong harbor / In 1975, ships and aircraft of the 7th Fleet evacuated thousands of U.S. citizens and refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia as those countries fell to opposing forces



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, 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 Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936 / The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" / The Navy Expeditionary Medal was retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **METTY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RAYMOND J.

Address: 215 GOODELL STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM (USARV), 34TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, 625TH GENERAL SUPPORT COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Raymond James Metty honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Raymond Metty was deployed to Vietnam on 14 April 1966 as a Laundry Bath and Impregnation Specialist / PFC Raymond Metty died from non-hostile action on 25 December 1966 / Death occurred from a reported intentional homicide

On 25 December 1966, PFC Raymond Metty attended Christmas midnight mass at a Vietnamese Church in An Khe, Binh Dinh Province / As he was leaving the church PFC Metty was shot and killed by an unknown assailant

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond James Metty was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Raymond James Metty is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13e, Line 79

Laundry Bath and Impregnation Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in maintaining hygiene and ensuring the well-being of soldiers / Specialists receive bulk, individual, or organizational laundry and reviews



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

laundry lists for accuracy of bundle count or contents of individual laundry bag / Segregates, classifies, and marks washable and non-washable items / Operates mobile washers, extractors, dryers, re-impregnation, decontamination, and delousing equipment / Sorts and issues cleaned laundry and equipment / Conducts clothing exchange in conjunction with bag operations. Installs, inspects, operates, and maintains laundry, shower, decontamination and delousing equipment, and generators / Supervises or performs laundry, shower, delousing, personnel and clothing decontamination, and reimpregnation functions

The United States Army, Vietnam (USARV) was a Corps-level support command of the United States Army during the Vietnam War / Although the U.S. Army Support Group was the Army component command within Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) in 1962, its functions were limited to logistical and administrative matters and excluded operational matters / USARV controlled the activities of all U.S. Army service and logistical units in South Vietnam through ten major support commands and also supervised 71 smaller units

The 34th General Support Group was provisionally formed in November 1965 and officially activated in January 1966 / Its primary responsibility was to provide command and control for assigned and attached units involved in aircraft, avionics, and air armament maintenance functions in the Republic of Vietnam / The group played a crucial role in supporting Army aviation operations during the Vietnam War / It rendered general support to all Army aircraft in Vietnam, including backup direct support to divisional units / Notable divisions it supported included the 101st Airborne, Americal, 4th Infantry, 25th Infantry, and the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile), as well as the 1st Aviation Brigade / The 34th General Support Group contributed to the overall readiness and effectiveness of Army aviation during a critical period in Vietnam

The 625th Supply and Service Company, also known as the 625th S-S Group Quang Tri, played a significant role during the Vietnam War / The 625th S-S Group Quang Tri was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam on 2 September 1965 / It was assigned and stationed in Quang Tri, specifically at Wunder Beach (southeast of Base Camp Quang Tri) and Dong Ha, both in Quang Tri Province, I Corps / As part of the 26th General Support Group, it operated under the 63rd Maintenance Battalion and was attached to the US Army Support Command (USASUPCOM) in Da Nang / The 625th S-S Group Quang Tri provided supply and service support to military operations in the region / It was responsible for ensuring the availability of essential supplies, equipment, and services to sustain combat units and personnel

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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 Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MILES**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

LARRY

A.

Address: 29 ONEIDA STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, F COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Larry Allen Miles honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Larry Miles was deployed to Vietnam on 9 December 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Larry Miles was Killed In Action on 28 March 1969 from enemy small arms fire while on patrol during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Larry Miles was born in Paulding, Ohio / Miles attended Sacred Heart School / Larry Miles graduated from South Park High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps on 27 June 1968, a day after High School graduation / Larry Allen Miles was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Larry Allen Miles is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 28w, Line 72

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)



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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2nd Battalion, 9th Marines (2/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, the unit played an instrumental role in the defeat of the Japanese forces in the Battles of Guam and Iwo Jima during World War II / The battalion distinguished itself in the defense of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War, and later participated in an ill-fated invasion of Koh Tang Island in Southeast Asia, with the intention of rescuing the crew of SS Mayaguez / On 4 July 1965, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines were ordered to Vietnam from Okinawa / The 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines fought battles in or around Danang, Hue, Phu Bai, Dong Ha, Camp Carroll, Cam Lo, Con Thien, Than Cam Son, Quang Tri, Cua Viet, Vandegrift Combat Base and what is considered by many as their most vicious engagement, the Battle of Khe Sanh / The 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines left Vietnam in August 1969 and returned to Camp Schwab, Okinawa / During Operation Desert Storm, the battalion served as the lead battalion for the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF)

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MILLER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: AKRON

JEFFREY

A.

Address: 11333 HUNTS CORNER

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Jeffery Allen Miller honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Jeffrey Miller was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / LCPL Jeffrey Miller died from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

LCPL Jeffery Miller died from wounds received in Quang Nam, Vietnam / The wounds were from artillery fire on 18 July 1970 / Miller was sent to the St. Albans Hospital in New York, where he succumbed to those wounds on 22 August 1970

LCPL Jeffrey Miller received a Purple Heart Medal in June 1970 when he was injured from an enemy explosive device

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jeffrey Miller graduated from Akron High School / Miller enlisted in the U.S. Marines a year after high school graduation / Jeffery Allen Miller was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Pioneer Cemetery, Newstead, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Jeffery Allen Miller is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08w, Line 131

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operation



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MILLER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CLARENCE CENTER

ROBERT

H.

Address: 6021 RAILROAD STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert Herbert Miller honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Robert Miller was deployed to Vietnam on 17 March 1977 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Robert Miller was Killed In Action on 28 April 1967 from enemy small arms fire during a combat patrol in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

Robert Miller enlisted in the U.S. Army in June 1966 / Robert Herbert Miller was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York

Robert Herbert Miller is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18e, Line 110

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities

The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment, entered the Vietnam War in January, 1966 / During their five-year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned two valorous unit citations, and was one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The regiment participated in Operation Junction City and fought during the Tet Offensive and the May Offensive / The regiment finally returned to Hawaii in April, 1971 / More recently the regiment deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MINOTTI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ALDEN

ANTHONY

J.

Address: 2639 TOWNLINE ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Anthony John Minotti honorably served in the United States Army / SGT John Minotti was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Anthony Minotti was Killed In Action on 15 May 1969 when he drove over a land mine and sustained fatal wounds from the explosive device in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony Minotti was a 1964 graduate of St. Mary's High School in Lancaster / Minotti attended Erie County Technical Institute before entering the U.S. Army in November 1967 / Anthony John Minotti was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint John the Baptist Cemetery, Alden, New York

Anthony John Minotti is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 24w, Line 18

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: MITCHELL
THOMAS W.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 582 SHERMAN STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Thomas William Mitchell honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Thomas Mitchell was deployed to Vietnam on 1 September 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Thomas Mitchell was Killed In Action on 2 December 1967 from enemy small arms fire in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

Thomas "Tommy" Mitchell was killed as the 1st Platoon of "D" Company received intense fire from a large NVA unit while advancing in rocky terrain believed to be near the Nui Mieu Mountains along the coast of Binh Dinh Province / He was struck in the chest by machine gun fire and died instantly as the "Delta Devils" took their first fatal casualties / Mitchell was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, Posthumously

Specialist Fourth-Class Thomas Mitchell was awarded the Bronze Star for exceptionally valorous action on 2 December 1967, while serving as a squad leader with Company "D", 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, during a search and destroy mission near the Crescent Valley, Republic of Vietnam / While leading an assault against a heavily fortified hostile cave complex, Specialist Mitchell engaged and killed several enemy soldiers / Upon spotting a hostile sniper, Specialist Mitchell pushed a comrade out of the enemy soldier's field of fire / At this time, Specialist Mitchell was mortally wounded, but his action contributed greatly to the successful completion of his unit's mission

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Mitchell was born in Georgia but raised in Buffalo / Mitchell attended East High School / Thomas "Tommy" William Mitchell was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Thomas William Mitchell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 25

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

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The 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment was constituted 15 May 1917 in the Regular Army as Company A, 50th Infantry / During World War II, the 1st Battalion participated in the battles Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe / The Battalion also fought several battles during the Korean War / The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry disembarked at Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam in September 1967 / The 1st participated in 10 Vietnam Campaigns / Other 50th Infantry Designations



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

participated in 3 additional campaigns / The 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry was withdrawn from South Vietnam and assigned to the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood Texas on 16 December 1970

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MONG**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

WILBUR

L.

Address: 791 SOUTH CAMPBELL BOULEVARD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 227TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

UNITED STATES AVIATOR 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:

Warrant Officer 1 Wilbur Leroy Mong honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Wilbur Mong was deployed to Vietnam on 4 September 1968 as a Helicopter Pilot, Utility and Light Cargo Single Rotor / WO1 Wilbur Mong died on 12 November 1968 when his helicopter was involved in a mid-air collision in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

WO1 Wilbur Mong Hong was on the crew serving as Pilot of the US Army helicopter UH-1H #66-16983 when they were involved in a mid-air collision with another helicopter while over the Phuoc Vinh airfield / Fortunately, the four men in the second aircraft survived the accident

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wilbur Mong was a native of Franklin, Pennsylvania / Mong was a 1960 graduate of Sweet Home Central High School / Mong was employed by Western Electric Corp. in Kenmore prior to entering the U.S. Army in June 1967 / Wilbur Leroy Mong was 27 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Wilbur Leroy Mong is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39w, Line 55

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion was constituted in the Regular Army on 1 February 1963 and assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division / It was activated on 18 July 1963, at Fort Benning, Georgia / This was the first battalion of its kind in the world and as it built into a full strength unit in the next several months, it stood ready to meet the challenge of providing a third dimension to the United States Army's tactics / On 9 September 1965, the aircraft carrier USS Boxer anchored in Qui Nhon Harbor and the first of the 227th helicopter and personnel began to arrive / Just eight days after the arrival of the first helicopter, with over half the battalion's aircraft and personnel still at sea, the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion flew its first combat assault / During the Vietnam War, C Company played a crucial role / They were equipped with Cobra gunships (specifically the AH-1G model) and were known by their call sign, "El Lobo" / Their motto was: "Live by chance, love by choice, kill by profession" / The company area was built from scratch, and they even cut their way into the rubber trees to establish their base in Lai Khe, Vietnam / C Company witnessed the arrival of the first Cobra gunships / The Crew Chief who painted the name on the Cobra also painted the company rotor blade / The transition from Hueys to Cobras marked a significant milestone for the unit

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

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MONIN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

FRANCIS

G.

Address: 3407 CLINTON STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1964

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, F COMPANY

USS ESSEX (CV/CVA/CVS-9)

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Francis George Monin honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Francis Monin was deployed to Vietnam / Corporal Francis Monin was Killed In Action on 5 July 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam / CPL Monin was a rifleman and had arrived for his tour duty in Vietnam one month prior to his death

Following the 3-4 July 1967 enemy attack on the Nong Son outpost south of the An Hoa Combat Base overlooking the Thu Bon River, the enemy continued to probe the Marines positions / Both Company "F" on the outpost and Company "E" that was located half way to the top of the mountain / On July 5, Company "F" was hit with small arms fire and several hand grenades resulting in CPL Francis Monin being killed by the hostile rifle fire

CPL Monin was stationed aboard the the USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) prior to receiving orders for duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.

Miscellaneous:

Francis Monin was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central High School / Monin enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 6 November 1964 / Francis George Monin was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Francis George Monin is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23e, Line 13

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion 5th Marines (2/5 or "Two Five") is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps consisting of approximately 800 marines and sailors / They are based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and fall under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion has seen combat in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War and has deployed many times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current War on Terror / 2/5 is the most highly decorated battalion in the Marine Corps, and their motto, "Retreat, Hell!", comes from the French trenches of World War I, when a Marine officer named Lloyd W. Williams was advised by a French officer to retreat and replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" / In April 1966, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and served there until 1971 / During this time, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines participated in combat operations at Hue, Que Son, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Phu Loc / Immediately after their return to Camp Pendleton in 1971, the battalion joined Operation New Arrivals, the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9) was an aircraft carrier and the lead ship of the 24-ship Essex class built for the United States Navy during World War II / She was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name / Commissioned on 31 December 1942, Essex participated in several campaigns in the World War II Pacific Theater of Operations, earning the Presidential Unit Citation and 13 battle stars / Decommissioned shortly after the end of the war, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), eventually becoming an antisubmarine aircraft carrier (CVS) / In her second career, she served mainly in the Atlantic, playing a role in the Cuban Missile Crisis / She also participated in the Korean War, earning four battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation / She was the primary recovery carrier for the Apollo 7 space mission / Essex was decommissioned on 30 June 1969 at Boston Navy Yard / She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 June 1973 and sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 1 June 1975 / Essex was scrapped at Kearny, New Jersey

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MONTZ**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

ROGER

E.

Address: 46 SUNNYDALE AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

F COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION, III MAF

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Roger Ellis Montz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Roger Montz was deployed to Vietnam on 14 December 1967 as a Rifleman / PFC Roger Montz was Killed In Action on 19 May 1968 from an enemy explosive device in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines were attacked by North Vietnamese troops southeast of Khe Sanh on 19 May 1968 / The Marines lost 8 dead, including PFC Roger Montz, and 42 wounded / 109 North Vietnamese were killed

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East

Miscellaneous:

Roger Montz attended Brighton Elementary School and was a graduate of St. Amelia's School and Cardinal O'Hara High School / Montz attended the State University of Buffalo before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1967 / Roger Ellis Montz was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Roger Ellis Montz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 63e, Line 12

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horn on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operation

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MOORE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

THOMAS

J.

Address: 6210 MAIN STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 7TH SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, B TROOP

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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:

Warrant Officer 1 Thomas Jon Moore honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Moore was deployed to Vietnam on 29 October 1967 as a Helicopter Pilot, Utility and Light Cargo Single Rotor / WO1 was Killed In Action on 19 February 1968 when his helicopter crashed after being hit by enemy groundfire in Kontum Province, South Vietnam

On 19 February 1968, WO1 Thomas Moore was piloting an OH-6A helicopter on a combat mission in Kontum Province when the aircraft was hit by enemy groundfire / When hit, the helicopter dipped and blew up about 30 feet off the trees near the tri-border area NW of Kontum / The helicopter crashed and burned, killing all three crew members / Declared missing in action, WO1 Thomas Moore's remains were recovered on 28 February 1968

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Moore was a graduate of St Joseph's Collegiate and attended Canisius College for a year / Moore worked for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation for two years before joining the U.S. Army in February 1966 / Thomas Jon Moore was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Thomas Jon Moore is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 40e, Line 26

The 1st Aviation Brigade is an aviation brigade of the United States Army, stationed at Fort Novosel in Alabama / In accordance with The Naming Commission recommendations Fort Rucker was renamed Fort Novosel in early 2023 / The 1st Aviation Brigade traces its origins to the Vietnam War / In April 1965 the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional) was activated with the existing 13th, 14th, 52nd, and 145th Aviation Battalions already in South Vietnam / In August 1965 it became the 12th Aviation Group, which then doubled in size and was used to form the 1st Aviation Brigade in March 1966 / The companies supporting Army of the Republic of Vietnam units were located in centralized positions to best provide support / The brigade assigned one combat aviation battalion headquarters in direct support of each infantry division and this battalion headquarters normally worked with that division no matter how many companies might be assigned for a specific mission / The Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was located in Saigon from May 1966 until August 1967 / The HQ then moved to Long Binh where it remained until Long Binh was closed in the early autumn of 1972 / The HQ then moved to the MACV compound at Tan Son Nhut, where it stayed until withdrawal

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MOTT**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOHN

J.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: LT COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MACV, ADVISORY TEAM 1

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel John James Mott honorably served in the United States Army / LT COL John Mott was deployed to Vietnam on 16 April 1972 as a Combat Engineer Unit Commander / LT COL was Killed In Action on 29 April 1972 when the helicopter he was riding in, was shot down by enemy ground fire in Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

LT COL John Mott served in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 1943 / Mott served as a Radio Operator and participated in the Peleliu campaign in World War II and was discharged as a Private First-Class

LT COL Mott had four tours of duty in Germany and was on his third deployment in Vietnam

LT COL Mott went to Vietnam with the Military Assistance Group in the early 1960s and returned for a second tour in 1966 / Mott had completed an eight-month course at the Vietnam Training Center, outside Washington, D.C. / After his second tour of Vietnam, Mott became the Engineering Officer at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and later commanded a training battalion at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri

Base Assignments:

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - Fort Belvoir is a United States Army installation in Fairfax County, Virginia, United States / The post was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for American Civil War Union Army general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii – Schofield Barracks is a United States Army installation and census-designated place (CDP) located in the City and County of Honolulu and in the Wahiawa District of the Hawaiian island of Oahu, Hawaii / Schofield Barracks is named after Lieutenant General John McAllister Schofield, who was the Commanding General of the United States Army from August 1888 to September 1895 / He had been sent to Hawaii in 1872 and had recommended the establishment of a naval base at Pearl Harbor / The post was established in 1908 to provide mobile defense of Pearl Harbor and the entire island / It has been the home of the 25th Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Tropic Lightning" division, since 1941, as well as the headquarters for United States Army Hawaii (USARHAW)

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In 1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Miscellaneous:

John Mott graduated from Cathedral School and Canisius High School and was the captain of the Canisius football team that went undefeated in 1942 / Mott graduated from Mississippi State University where as a member of the ROTC, he earned his Army commission / John James Mott was 47 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St James Cemetery, Westfield, New York

John James Mott is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 01w, Line 10

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MOTT**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

A.

Address: 28 ABBOTSFORD PLACE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, 299TH ENGINEER BATTALION, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph Anthony Mott honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Joseph Mott was deployed to Vietnam on 23 January 1969 as a Combat Engineer / PFC Joseph Mott was Killed In Action on 7 June 1969 from an enemy explosive device in Kontum province, South Vietnam

PFC Joseph Mott was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery when routed a nest of eight Viet Cong snipers

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Mott was a 1966 graduate of Lafayette High School / Mott attended Palm Beach, Florida Junior College before being drafted into the U.S. Army / Joseph Anthony Mott was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Joseph Anthony Mott is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23w, Line 104

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 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) is an engineer brigade of the United States Army / It is currently a subordinate unit of 21st Sustainment Command (Theater) and is headquartered at Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany / Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade provide various supportive duties to other Army units, including construction, engineering, and mechanical work on other Army projects / The brigade served in Europe during World War II, a fact which was included on its Distinctive Unit Insignia when the 20th Engineer Brigade received one on 10 February 1966 / The four corners of the crenelated square allude to their four campaigns in World War II, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe / The 18th Engineer Brigade later deployed to Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, where its battalions saw six years of combat service and supported fourteen campaigns, building infrastructure for both military and civilian projects / The brigade participated in a massive number of road construction projects and airfield constructions, supporting numerous infantry units and operating all over Vietnam / After serving in Vietnam, the brigade became attached to Seventh United States Army / It has since undertaken and completed numerous projects in support of US Army, Europe, and participated in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MUENCH**
JOSEPH E.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address: 3341 WARNER DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 8TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Joseph Earl Muench honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Joseph Muench was deployed to Vietnam on 9 May 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Joseph Muench was Killed In Action on 4 October 1969 from enemy small arms fire in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

On 10 September 1969, CPL Muench's Battalion was tasked with a clear and search operation for enemy positions in the highly contested Binh Dinh Province / The operation would go on for a month, during which the Battalion suffered many casualties / On 4 October 1969, CPL Joseph Muench was hit and killed by enemy small arms fire

Corporal Joseph Muench was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for the many acts of heroism during this operation and in the months leading up to his death

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Muench was a graduate of Riverside High School graduated from Alfred Agricultural and Technical College / Muench was employed by Fairbanks Morse Weighing Systems Division of Colt Industries in



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Cheektowaga prior to entering military service in 1968 / Joseph Earl Muench was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St Joseph's Cemetery, Scio, New York

Joseph Earl Muench is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23w, Line 104

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 / During Operation Wayne Grey at Landing Zone Brace 3 March 1969 in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion Company "A" had at least 21 fatalities

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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

Corporal Joseph Earl Muench 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MUSICK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ALDEN

FRANK

F.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: TSGT

Year Entered: 1942

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

7TH AIR FORCE, 504TH TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT GROUP, 21ST TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Technical Sergeant Frank Frederick Musick honorably served in the United States Air Force / TSGT Frank Musick was deployed to Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller / TSGT Frank Musick died on 8 December 1968 as a result of non-hostile vehicle accident in Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam

TSgt Frank F. Musick served with the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron (21st TASS), 504th Tactical Air Support Group, 7th Air Force / The 21st TASS was organized at Pleiku Air Base in May 1965, then in September 1966, moved to the coast at Nha Trang Air Base in Khanh Hoa Province, RVN / The mission of the 21st TASS was to provide visual reconnaissance and forward air control support of tactical offensive operations / Its area of operations was II Corps, a large and geographically mixed section of Vietnam, with detachments of the squadron operating from several different sites within the region / On the late evening of 7 December (or early morning of 8 December, the time is unconfirmed) 1968, Musick was off duty in his quarters at a location off base in Nha Trang when he fell from his balcony / Another Airman reportedly saw him on the balcony, then heard a noise after which Musick fell two stories to the ground / He was transported to the U.S. Army's 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang where he was dead on arrival at 12:40 AM / Postmortem studies determined TSGT Frank Musick died after sustaining a brain injury and crushed skull

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Frank Musick attended three years of high school and worked in automobile manufacturing industry prior to entering the U.S. Army in July 1942 / Frank Frederick Musick was 47 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Tuscaloosa Memorial Park, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Frank Frederick Musick is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 37w, Line 68

Forward air control is the provision of guidance to close air support (CAS) aircraft intended to ensure that their attack hits the intended target and does not injure friendly troops. This task is carried out by a forward air controller (FAC) / A primary forward air control function is ensuring the safety of friendly troops during close air support / Enemy targets in the front are often close to friendly forces and therefore friendly forces are at risk of friendly fire through proximity during air attack / The danger is twofold: the bombing pilot cannot identify the target clearly, and is not aware of the locations of friendly forces / Camouflage, a constantly changing situation and the fog of war all increase the risk

The Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea) (7 AF) is a Numbered Air Force of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea / The command's mission is to plan and direct air component operations in the Republic of Korea and in the Northwest Pacific / Established on 19 October 1940 as the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, the 7 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat unit in the Pacific Theater of World War II, providing air defense of the Hawaiian Islands and engaging in combat operations primarily in the Central Pacific AOR / It was assigned units engaging enemy forces in the Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Mariana Islands, and in the last major battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of Okinawa / On 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam / From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force / In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations / The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / The Siege of Khe Sanh ("Operation Niagara") involved significant efforts by Seventh Air Force / More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day / At night, Douglas AC-47 Spooky gunships kept up fire against enemy troops / 7th AF oversaw the ongoing US air campaigns in Cambodia and Laos until the prohibition on offensive operations came into effect on 14 August 1973

The 504th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group is an inactive United States Air Force unit / It was first activated as the 504th Tactical Air Support Group in 1966 for service during the Vietnam War, and was reactivated in 2009 for service in Afghanistan / In Vietnam the group provided combat ready aircraft and crews in support of air and ground operations in Southeast Asia / It directed ground strikes, conducted visual reconnaissance and convoy escort / It also trained Air Liaison Officers and Forward Air Controllers / The group was thrice awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions during the war / It was inactivated in 1972 when the Vietnamese Air Force assumed its remaining mission / The 504th was reactivated in 2009 to provide air support, air liaison, and weather support for ground operations until it was inactivated on 12 May 2016

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **MUSZYNSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: DEPEW

MICHAEL

J.

Address: 31 WANDA STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 6TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael John Muszynski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Michael Muszynski was deployed to Vietnam on 4 October 1967 as an Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Michael Muszynski was Killed In Action on 1 June 1968 from enemy mortar fire in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Jackson , South Carolina - Fort Jackson is a United States Army installation, which the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) operates for Basic Combat Training (BCT), and is located within the city of Columbia, South Carolina / Fort Jackson was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army general and the seventh president of the United States (1829–1837) who was born in the border region of North and South Carolina / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:

Michael Muszynski was a graduate of Sacred Heart Elementary School in Bowmansville and attended Lancaster Senior High School / Muszynski worked for Bison Boxcraft before entering the U.S. Army in July 1966 / Michael John Muszynski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Michael John Muszynski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 61w, Line 4

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 198th Infantry Brigade, was first formed as part of the United States Army Reserve's 99th Division / It was active from 1967 through 1971 and has been active since 2007 as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia / During the years of 1967–1971, as part of the Vietnam War, the 198th was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division / In 1968, elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade participated in the Battle of Kham Duc / Reactivated on 15 May 2007, the 198th Infantry Brigade now serves as an Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia with the mission to train and prepare infantry soldiers for their critical roles in the U.S. Army

The 6th Infantry Regiment ("Regulars") was formed 11 January 1812 / Zachary Taylor, later the twelfth President of the United States, was a commander of the unit / The motto, "Regulars, By God!" derives from the Battle of Chippawa, in which British Major General Phineas Riall noticed that the approaching regiment had on the uniforms of militia, which the British had defeated at Queenston Heights / Instead, the Americans pressed the attack. Riall is believed to have said, "Those are Regulars, By God!", though the only source of this was opposing



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

U.S. General Winfield Scott / The regiment participated in the War of 1812, the Mexican–American War, the American Civil War, the Indian Wars (1823–1879), the Spanish–American War, Philippine–American War (1899–1913), the Pancho Villa Expedition (1916–1917), World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War / On 17 May 1967, the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry was reorganized as a standard Infantry Battalion and was assigned to the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, in the “Americal” (23rd Infantry) Division / The 1–6th Infantry was the division's first element ashore, arriving at Chu Lai in October to participate in its thirty-fifth campaign and ninth war / After a brief initial operation south of Duc Pho, the battalion was assigned the mission of securing the installation at Chu Lai / 1–6th Infantry participated in Task Force Oregon, Task Force Miracle, Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, Operation Burlington Trail, and had the mission of protecting “Americal” Division Headquarters and Chu Lai Defense Command from enemy ground mortar and rocket attacks / The 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry was awarded the Valorous Unit Citation for its victory at the Battle of Lo Giang, 7–11 February 1968 / On 15 February 1969, the battalion was released from the 198th Light Infantry Brigade and assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division, “Americal” Division / On 13 September 1972 was reassigned to the 1st Armored Division, and was posted at Stork Barracks in Illesheim, West Germany / Elements of the 6th Infantry were also part of IFOR, Task Force Eagle, which was charged with implementing the military aspects of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

(highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: NEAL
CARY

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 427 MADISON STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Cary Neal honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Cary Neal was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC Cary Neal was Killed In Action on 28 December 1966 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam province

After a small squad of Marines were inserted by helicopter (CH46) in a small landing zone in a dense mountain jungle area, they were hit with heavy enemy fire / The small squad of Marines and took heavy casualties, including Private First-Class Cary Neal, who was hit from behind and died instantly

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Miscellaneous:

Cary Neal enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in April 1966, during his senior year at Boys Vocational High School / Cary Neal was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Cary Neal is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13e, Line 93

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / They returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: NESBITT

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

CALVIN

I.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Calvin Ian Nesbitt honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Calvin Nesbitt was deployed to Vietnam on 30 November 1967 as a Machine Gunner / PFC Calvin Nesbitt was Killed In Action on 26 April 1968 from enemy small arms fire, 1 km W of Con Thien, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Upon completion of his training in the US, Calvin received orders for Vietnam and arrived in Da Nang, Vietnam on 30 November 1967 where he was assigned for duty with Company "D", 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d MARDDIV (Rein) FMF / On 26 April 1968, elements of Company "D" were dispatched as a reaction force to assist Company "A" which was in heavy contact with NVA forces, west of Con Thien in Quang Tri Province / After a heavy engagement with the enemy in fortified positions, the Marines cleared the area and were able to recover their casualties / One of the men who was killed during the engagement was PFC Calvin Nesbitt / PFC Nesbitt died as a result of a hostile gunshot wound to his body

Thousands of Canadians served in Vietnam and over 100 are listed on The Vietnam Wall / PFC Nesbitt entered the Marine Corps from Buffalo, yet he was born and raised in Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Miscellaneous:

Calvin Nesbitt was born in Guelph, Ontario, Canada / Nesbitt joined the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1967 / Calvin Ian Nesbitt was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Memorial Park, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Calvin Ian Nesbitt is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 52e, Line 22

Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

1st Battalion, 4th Marines (1/4) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / They fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was originally activated in April 1911 as the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment / The battalion first saw combat in November 1916 in the Dominican Republic / The outbreak of World War II found the battalion serving as part of the U.S. Forces defending the Philippines / In the spring of 1965 the battalion deployed to combat in South Vietnam / From 1965 to 1969 the battalion engaged in numerous conventional and counter-insurgency operations in the I Corps / Some of the major operations that 1/4 was involved in were Operation Prairie, Operation Beacon Hill, Operation Prairie IV, Operation Deckhouse IV, Operation Kentucky, Operation Purple Martin and Operation



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Napoleon/Saline would be fought from places such as the Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Con Thien and Ca Lu Combat Base / In November 1969 the battalion was redeployed to Okinawa and would also serve off the coast of Vietnam / The battalion participated in the rescue of the SS Mayaguez in May 1975

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: NIGHTENGALE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

TMOTHY

J.

Address: 51 ALTRURIA STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Timothy James Nightengale honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Timothy Nightengale was deployed to Vietnam on 7 February 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Timothy Nightengale was Killed In Action on 6 April 1968 from an enemy explosive device in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

In April 1968, the Battalion was operating in northern Quang Tri Province in the Huong Hoa District and during Operation PEGASUS the unit was the first to move out to seize Hill 471 two kilometers south and Hill 552 two kilometers southwest of the Khe Sanh Combat Base / During the advance on their objectives the Marine were confronted the NVA in well prepared and concealed defensive positions, as well as supporting arms fire, rocket and artillery fire slowed their advance in the heavy mountainous terrain / During the first two days of fire fights thirteen men were killed in the battles with enemy forces and one of the casualties was PFC Timothy Nightengale, killed by fragmentation wounds from a hostile explosive device / PFC Nightengale had been in Vietnam for 58 days at the time of his passing

PFC Timothy J. Nightengale was the only member of Platoon 3035 to be KIA in Viet Nam

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Miscellaneous:

Timothy Nightengale enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 30 August 1967 while a senior at South Park High School / Nightengale worked at the main office of the Manufacturers & Traders Trust Company / Timothy James Nightengale was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York

Timothy James Nightengale is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48e, Line 31

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **NURZYNSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

A.

Address: 212 FOX STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Joseph Anthony Nurzynski honorably served in the United States Army / SP-5 Joseph Nurzynski was deployed to Vietnam as an Infantry Operations and Intelligence Specialist / SP5 Joseph Nurzynski was Killed In Action on 12 May 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning of 12 May 1969, Recon Platoon, E Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, was settled into a night defensive position (NDP) in the middle of a rice paddy in the vicinity of LZ Razorback in Quang Ngai Province, RVN / They had been directed the previous day to set up in this position, and the new platoon leader, compliantly following orders, had his 18-strong team dig fighting holes after dark / Their vulnerable position did not go unnoticed by the local Viet Cong who observed unseen the American patrols, and a little after midnight, 60mm mortar rounds began falling on Recon's NDP / The results were devastating / Five members of the patrol were killed, including four which were hit by the same round, and another who recklessly lay on an air mattress / Another eight were wounded / They were evacuated for immediate medical care to a U.S. Army medical unit within with 11th Brigade headquarters at LZ Bronco in Duc Pho / There the dead were identified at Graves Registration by the previous platoon leader who had refused the mission and was subsequently relieved of his command / The lost Recon troopers were SP5 Joseph A. Nurzynski, SP4 Bruce E. Peteroy, PFC Michael J. Sturgill, SP4 Charles Thomas Jr., and SP4 Samuel L. Wable



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

SP5 Joseph Nurzynski was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Nurzynski was a graduate of Transfiguration School and Bishop Ryan High School / Nurzynski attended the State University of Buffalo before entering the U.S. Army on 28 April 1968 / Joseph Anthony Nurzynski was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalberts Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Joseph Anthony Nurzynski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 79

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders

The 11th Light Infantry Brigade was formed as part of the US Army's 6th Division during WWI. Activated November of 1917 / Its elements at that time were the 51st Infantry Regiment, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 16th Machine-Gun Battalion and the 11th Field Artillery / The 11th Light Infantry Brigade is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division, AMERICAL Division during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971 / The 11th Light Infantry in early 1967, trained extensively in jungle operations in preparation for deployment to Vietnam / The 11th LIB was deployed during the Vietnam War and served the US Army's 23rd Infantry Division, The AMERICAL Division

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) was constituted 3 June 1784 in the Regular Army as a company of the First American Regiment / Redesignated 15 April 1966 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry (organic elements concurrently constituted) / Battalion activated 1 July 1966 in Hawaii and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade / On 15 August 1967, the 11th Infantry Brigade adopted the "light Infantry" concept

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **O'CONNELL**

KEVIN

G.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

Address: 73 BERKLEY ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Kevin Gerald O'Connell honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Kevin O'Connell was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC Kevin O'Connell was Killed In Action on 29 June 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

After PFC Kevin O'Connell arrived in Vietnam, he was assigned to H & S Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division / The battalion was participating in Operation Choctaw, about 10 kilometers east southeast of Phong Dinh when H & S encountered hostile forces during the patrol / PFC O'Connell died as a result of a gunshot to the chest from hostile rifle fire during the engagement

PFC O'Connell was originally to be sent to Vietnam as a Scout / O'Connell was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California for training in Vietnamese, but contracted pneumonia / PFC O'Connell spent a month on the hospital ship, USS Sanctuary, before deploying to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kevin O'Connell graduated from Clarence Senior High School, before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps / Kevin



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gerald O'Connell was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Kevin Gerald O'Connell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 84

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / The battalion, nicknamed the Magnificent Bastards from the Vietnam War, is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and is a part of the 5th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the battalion's first assignment was to take part in the assault on Emirau Island / During the remainder of World War II, the battalion saw action in the Battles of Guam (2/4 was the first ashore) and of Okinawa / On Okinawa, the battalion was involved in the fighting for the Motobu Peninsula, the capture of Naha, and the assault on the Oruku Peninsula / In May 1965 the 2nd Battalion landed at Landing Zone (LZ) Blue (west of Green Beach) near Chu Lai / The first combined land operation of the war was Operation Lien Ket 4 between 2/4 and 3rd Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Marine Division on 28 July / The first major engagement for the battalion was Operation Starlite (the first regimental sized battle for American forces since the Korean War) in August 1965 / Beginning in 1966, combat operations measurably increased with the battalion participating in Operation Double Eagle and Operation Hastings, a coordinated Marine/Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) search and destroy mission / The 1968 Tet Offensive resulted in an increase in fighting along the DMZ / A bitter clash started 30 April 1968 and ran through 3 May 1968 between 2/4 and the PAVN 320th Division (8,000 to 10,000 soldiers) that broke out northeast of Dong Ha / To protect the base and also the 3rd Marine Division headquarters, 2/4 reinforced by B/1/3 was moved forward to seize the fortified village and area around Dai Do / The three day Battle of Dai Do was costly for both sides / The PAVN lost nearly 1,500 killed, while 2/4 suffered 81 dead and 397 wounded / By 15 May 1968 the PAVN were driven back north across the DMZ / Total losses for the Marines were 233 killed and 821 wounded / PAVN losses were put at 2,945 killed and 47 POW's / The other major operations that 2/4 was involved in were Operation Lancaster II ran from 21 January to 23 November 1968 / This was a multiple battalion operation was to secure Route 9 between Cam Lo and Ca Lu / Total losses were 359 marines killed 1,713 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 1,801 / Operation Napoleon/Saline ran from 29 February 1968 to 12 September 1968 and was another multi-battalion operation that covered the Cua Viet river area near the South China Sea / Total losses were put at 117 marines killed; PAVN losses were put at 3,495 / Operation Scotland II was a multi-battalion operation that ran from 15 April 1968 to 28 February 1969 in the Khe Sanh area / Total losses were put at 435 marines killed 2,396 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 3,304 / On 6 November 1969, 2/4 was withdrawn to Okinawa as part of the United States policy of gradually turning the war over to the South



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Vietnamese

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ORTON, JR.**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

KENNETH

W.

Address: 228 KELLER AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Kenneth William Orton, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Kenneth Orton was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / SGT Orton was Killed In Action on 26 April 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations on Khe Sanh Hill 861, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During the second half of April 1967, SGT Orton's Battalion moved its CP (Command Post) to northern Quang Tri Province and began to participate in Operation PRAIRIE IV / In the early morning hours of April 26 while in their defensive perimeter southwest of Hill 886 South, the Marines were hit with a barrage of NVA mortar and possible direct RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) Fire / Supporting arms were requested on the suspected enemy positions / After the attack, the Marines proceeded on their mission, and made contact with enemy engaging them in fire fights several times during the day during the search in the mountains of Huong Hoa District / Towards evening, Company B linked up with Company K, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines northeast of Hill 861 South and were moving toward their night perimeters, when a barrage of NVA mortar fire hit the Marines / During the days confrontations with the enemy nine men of Company B were killed in action, three by enemy mortar fire and several were wounded / SGT Kenneth Orton was one of the casualties, he was killed in action from hostile rifle fire.

SGT Kenneth Orton signed his first four-year enlistment in the U. S. Marine Corps on 30 July 1959 in Buffalo, NY and re-enlisted on 30 July 1963 in Kittery, Maine, serving in the Marine Corps for seven-and-a-half years



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Orton was a 1959 graduate of Kenmore West High School / Kenneth William Orton, Jr. was 26 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Maple Grove Cemetery in Concord, New Hampshire

Kenneth William Orton, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18e, Line 96

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The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OWCZARCZAK**

MELVIN

J.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 75 CIRCLE END DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2LT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 321ST ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Second Lieutenant Melvin Joseph Owczarczak honorably served in the United States Army / 2nd LT Melvin Owczarczak was deployed to Vietnam on 20 June 1968 as a Field Artillery Unit Commander / 2LT Owczarczak was Killed in Action on 1 September 1968 from a booby trap set by the enemy in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

2nd LT Owczarczak was wounded during combat operations along the coastal plain between the City of Hue and Vin Loc Island on the South China Sea / He was evacuated to a Navy hospital ship, "Repose", but the injury was fatal and 2LT Owczarczak died of his wounds

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak received his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1967 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and completed artillery training at Ft Sill Oklahoma in the Spring of 1968

LT Owczarczak had served in Vietnam less than three months and was a Field Artillery Unit Commander

Base Assignments:

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania - A U.S. Army post primarily located in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania and served as a National Guard Training Center / During the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the Vietnam War, Fort Indiantown Gap served as one of the largest Reserve Officers Training Corps summer camps for the U.S.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Army

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 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:

Melvin Owczarczak was a 1961 graduate of St. Francis High School and graduated in 1967 from St. Bonaventure University with a degree in Mathematics / Owczarczak also operated a radio station on the St. Bonaventure campus / Melvin Joseph Owczarczak was 25 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Melvin Joseph Owczarczak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 45w, Line 19

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 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 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army and trained for air assault operations / it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" and is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / During World War II, the 101st was renowned 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, perhaps most famously, its action during the Battle of the Bulge around the city of Bastogne, Belgium / During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969

The 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (1-321st FAR) is an inactive field artillery battalion of the United States Army / The battalion served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror with the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions, and with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade / 1st Battalion, 321st Artillery (1-321) deployed to Vietnam attached to the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from 12 – 17 December 1967 / the battalion supported Operations Manchester, San Angelo and Atalla / From 10–11 January 1968, the battalion fired 1,935 rounds in support of a 25th Infantry Division fire support base, resulting in a large number of enemy killed / During its first two months in Vietnam, the battalion fired 19,150 rounds / On 22 November 1969, four howitzers from Battery A, accompanied by three howitzers from Battery B, 2-11 Arty, moved to FSB Bradley for a raid / The Battery A element fired 514 rounds against 65 targets before returning to LZ Sally / The raid destroyed 17 bunkers, six huts, three fighting positions and two bridges; caused two secondary fires; and interdicted five infiltration routes / Battery A returned to LZ Sally on 10 January 1970 and moved again to FSB Strike on 12 January 1970 and remained there until 25 January 1970 / The battalion was officially inactivated in March 1970, and its firing batteries were distributed throughout the 82nd Airborne Division

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The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **OZIMEK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: DEPEW

RONALD

R.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Ronald Robert Ozimek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Ronald Ozimek was deployed to Vietnam on 15 March 1969 as an Anti-Tank Assaultman / PFC Ronald Ozimek was Killed In Action on 10 August 1969 from hostile mortar fire at the Marine NDP (night defensive position) NW of LZ (landing zone) Sierra on DMZ, Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

At approximately 0600H on 10 August 1969, while the 1st Platoon was in a night defensive position, an NVA Company assaulted the perimeter with mortar fire, automatic rifle fire and rocket propelled grenades / PFC Ronald Ozimek died in combat, as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds to the head and body from mortar fire and hand grenades, at Mutters Ridge, Hill 484, about 16 kilometers north northwest of Ca Lu Airfield, while participating in Operation Idaho Canyon / PFC Ozimek had been in Vietnam for 4 months and 26 days

PFC Ronald Robert Ozimek was a member of the Second Battalion, Platoon 2024 at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina / Two other members of Platoon 2024 were KIA in Viet Nam: PFC Larry Edward Christie, Waddington, NY and LCPL Ralph Lee Taylor, Baltimore, MD

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Ozimek graduated from Depew High School with the class of 1968 / Ozimek was a Woodworker for Tradition House in Depew / Ronald Ozimek enlisted in the Marines 9 September 1968, at a Buffalo Recruiting Office / Ronald Robert Ozimek was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Augustine Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Ronald Robert Ozimek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 20w, Line 125

An Anti-Tank Assaultman was a front-line military job that supported ground infantry and tasked with tankbusting and breaching / In the past, Marine Corps Infantry Assault had been referred to as "grunts" for their hard, grueling work in combat / Assaultman were responsible for anti-armor operations and tactical vehicle operations / These servicemembers provided medium and heavy anti-armor fire in support of the infantry battalion

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2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines (2/3) was an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors / The battalion fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment and the 3rd Marine Division / In January 1961, 2/3 was redeployed to Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and reassigned to 3d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force / From there the unit deployed at various times between 1961 and 1967 as the Battalion Landing Team of the Seventh Fleet / In April 1965, 2/3 deployed to Da Nang in the Republic of Vietnam / They fought in Vietnam from April 1965 until October 1969 when 2/3 left South Vietnam and relocated to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and was reassigned to 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force / The battalion was deactivated in January 2022 as part of the Marine Corps' ongoing Force Design efforts



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PAGE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

JOHN

G.

Address: 157 MANG AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, 93RD MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, 16TH MP GROUP

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class John George "Jack" Page honorably served in the United States Army / PFC John Page was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1969 as an Aircraft Maintenance Crewman / PFC John Page died on 12 September 1970 at the 67th Evacuation Hospital at Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam after a five-day illness / The cause of death reportedly was viral meningoencephalitis

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

Miscellaneous:

John Page was a 1967 graduate of Kenmore West Senior High School / Page enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 1969 while a student at Buffalo State University College / John George "Jack" Page was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

John George Page is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 07w, Line 59

An Aircraft Maintenance Crewman prepares studies, evaluations, special reports, and records pertaining to aircraft maintenance, component repair, and related activities / Plans aircraft maintenance areas, components repair shops, and facilities / Applies production control, quality control, and other maintenance management principles and procedures to aircraft maintenance and shop operations

The 18th Military Police Brigade was activated at Fort Meade, Maryland on 20 May 1966 / During the Vietnam War, the Brigade was comprised of the following Battalions: the 92nd, 93rd, 95th, 97th, 504th, 716 and 720th / Members of the HHC deployed to Vung Tau, republic of Vietnam on 7 September 1966, and on 26 September 1966 / The mission of the 18th Military Police Brigade during the Vietnam War was to provide military police support in the Republic of Vietnam / This included a range of responsibilities such as maintaining order, enforcing regulations, conducting patrols, and ensuring the safety and security of military personnel and facilities / The Brigade assumed operational control over all non-division military police units in the region, contributing significantly to the overall mission of maintaining stability and security during a challenging period of conflict

The 93d (or 93rd) Military Police Battalion of the United States Army was formed in June 1945 and has operated in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Gulf War, and the Iraq War / The 93d Military Police Battalion deploys worldwide to conduct Military Police operations, and conducts continuous law and order operations in support of the Fort Bliss military community / The 93d MP BN was reactivated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on 1 June 1966 and deployed to South East Asia

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PAGE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WILLIE

L.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, 2ND SQUADRON, 11TH CAVALRY, G TROOP

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/V DEVICE

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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 Willie Lee Page honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Willie Page was deployed to Vietnam as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SP4 Willie Page was Killed In Action on 6 June 1967 when as a passenger in an armored personnel carrier, his vehicle hit a hostile mine while on combat operation in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam

Specialist Fourth-Class Willie Page was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service while engaged with enemy combatants and awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Willie Page attended Burgard High School / Willie Lee Page was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Edgemont Cemetery, Anniston, Alabama

Willie Lee Page is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21e, Line 63



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment ("Blackhorse Regiment") is a unit of the United States Army garrisoned at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in California / The regiment has served in the Philippine–American War, the Pancho Villa Expedition, World War II, the Vietnam War, Gulf War and Iraq War / With the war in South Vietnam escalating, the Blackhorse Regiment was alerted for assignment to Southeast Asia on 11 March 1966 / The Blackhorse Regiment arrived in Vung Tau, South Vietnam on 7 September 1966 / The 11th Armored Cavalry participated in: Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, Operation Kittyhawk, Operation Alcorn Cove, the Tet Offensive and many others / The Tet Offensive of 1968 gave the squadron a chance to fight the enemy's troop formations in open combat / In Bien Hoa, the 3rd Squadron drove the enemy forces from the area near III Corps headquarters / Its action was crucial in smashing the enemy's offensive / The 11th withdrew from Vietnam in 1972

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PALUMBO**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ANTHONY

P.

Address: 241 GOLD STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 47TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Anthony Paul Palumbo honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Anthony Palumbo was deployed to Vietnam on 6 September 1967 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / SP4 Anthony Palumbo was Killed In Action on 12 May 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in enemy combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

In May 1968, the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry was involved in a fight at the Y-Bridge in the Cholon District of Saigon / On May 12th, two recent transfers to 2/47 were killed in a friendly fire incident / SP4 Anthony P. Palumbo and PFC Philip M. Wooten were killed by a short artillery round that hit just as the company was preparing to assault a Viet Cong position in Saigon / The artillery was supposed to stop, and as the members of the company came out of cover, a round landed among the 10 men / Two were killed (Palumbo and Wooten), and seven were wounded

Base Assignments:

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama-Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

/ The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

Anthony Palumbo joined the U.S. Army on 1 March 1967 / Anthony Paul Palumbo was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Anthony Paul Palumbo is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 59e, Line 10

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The 9th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Reliables") is an inactive infantry division of the United States Army / It was created as the 9th Division during World War I, but never deployed overseas / In later years it was an important unit of the U.S. Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The 9th Division was reactivated on 1 February 1966, and arrived in South Vietnam on 16 December 1966 from Fort Riley, Kansas / On deployment the division was assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam where it commenced operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-31 May 1967) in Operation Palm Beach / Its area of operations was in the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta from 1967 to 1972 / Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled Delta, the Division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program / The Division's major units departed from South Vietnam on 27 August 1969 (HHC & 1st Brigade) to Hawaii; 27 August 1969 (2nd Brigade) to Fort Lewis, Washington; 12 October 1970 (3rd Brigade) to Fort Lewis / It was also activated as a peacetime readiness unit from 1947 to 1962 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and from 1972 to 1991 as an active-duty infantry division at Fort Lewis, Washington / The division was deactivated in December 1991

The 47th Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / Constituted in 1917 at Camp Syracuse, New York, the regiment fought in the Great War, and was later inactivated in 1921 / Reactivated in 1940, the regiment fought during World War II in North Africa, Sicily, and Western Europe, then was inactivated in 1946 / During the Cold War, the regiment saw multiple activations and inactivation's, with service both in the Regular Army and the Army Reserve; it fought in Vietnam / In Vietnam, the regiment fought in the Mekong Delta, where it conducted riverine warfare / Along with other units assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, the regiment was based out of Dong Tam Base Camp / During the conflict, three of the regiment's battalions served; the 2d Battalion was deployed from January 1967 until October 1970, the 3d Battalion was deployed from January 1967 until July 1969, and the 4th Battalion was deployed January 1967 until July 1969 / For the most part the regiment's battalions were assigned to the 9th Infantry Division's 2d Brigade, except for the 2d Battalion, which was temporarily assigned at various times in 1968 to the division's other two brigades / During its time in Vietnam, the regiment conducted joint operations with the United States Navy, during which its soldiers deployed from, and billeted aboard, naval vessels / Following the regiment's deployment to Vietnam, its battalions were progressively inactivated / The 3d Battalion was the first to be inactivated, doing so at Fort Riley in August 1969; this was followed by the 2d Battalion, which was inactivated at Fort Lewis in October 1970, and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

the 1st Battalion in November 1972

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PAULINO**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CLARENCE

CARL

A.

Address: 9159 MAIN STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Carl Arthur Paulino honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Carl Paulino was deployed to Vietnam on 1 May 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Carl Paulino was Killed In Action on 18 June 1968 from a hostile explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 18 June 1968, two squads of Marines enroute to their ambush positions in the vicinity of Khuong My village in the Dien Ban District had six Chicom grenades thrown at them from a hidden enemy / The explosions from the hostile devices killed PFC Carl Paulino and wounded seven additional men of the patrol including their USN Corpsman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Carl Paulino was born in Middlebury, Vermont / Paulino enlisted in the US Marine Corps on 15 November 1967 in Buffalo / Carl Arthur Paulino was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Carl Arthur Paulino is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Wall, Panel 56w, Line 26

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (1/7) is an infantry battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps / It is currently based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines, it is part of the 1st Marine Division / The 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment was created on 1 April 1921 in San Diego, California / 1/7 deployed to take part in the Pacific Theater during World War II and participated in the battles of Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa / The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines was deployed to Vietnam in August 1965, participating in numerous combat operations such as Starlite, Piranha, Mameluke Thrust and Oklahoma Hills

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PAWLICK, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

HENRY J.

Address: 17 ALWIN PLACE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, 611TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Henry John Pawlick, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC John Pawlick was deployed to Vietnam 4 September 1965 as an Ammunition Storage Specialist / PFC Henry Pawlick died on 7 November 1965 from non-hostile action in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

PFC Henry Pawlick died as a result of accidental drowning / Pawlick was caught in an undertow while swimming and drowned

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry Pawlick attended School 17 and School 39 / Pawlick was a 1962 graduate of Seneca Vocational School / Henry John Pawlick, Jr. was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Henry John Pawlick, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03e, Line 29

An Ammunition Specialist is responsible for the highly specialized care and management of ammunition, explosives, and their components / They perform stock control and accounting duties, and in charge of receiving,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

storing, issuing, and inspecting weapon systems to determine if they need repair or need to be destroyed / The Specialist is in charge of blowing up expired or partially used explosives and other ordnance in controlled settings, a crucial part of keeping troops safe

No unit was more critical to the buildup of American forces in Vietnam than the 1st Logistical Command / Prior to 1965, the U.S. Army in Vietnam was supplied by the Army's Pacific Command through the small U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, which served under the 9th Logistical Command in Okinawa / With the deployment of division-sized units, it quickly became apparent that the logistical effort required greater manpower and organization / As a result, the 1st Logistical Command, which had first been activated during the Korean War, was deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived in Saigon on 1 April 1965 / At that time, Vietnam possessed only two ports capable of supporting the ocean-going vessels that brought most American material to Vietnam: one in Da Nang that the U.S. Navy used to provide logistical support to the Marines in I Corps, the other in Saigon, which was needed to provide South Vietnam with most of its imported goods / USARV made the decision to build a major port at Cam Ranh Bay / Utilizing the DeLong pier, which operated by hydraulic lifting devices, Army engineers succeeded in completing the port at Cam Ranh / The development of the ports played a large role in determining the organization of the 1st Logistical Command / Separate U.S. Army Support Commands were established in Saigon, Cam Ranh, Qui Nhon, and, in 1968, when Army units began to serve in I Corps, in Da Nang / Each support command operated independently in maintaining a flow of needed goods to the combat zones / The 1st Log maintained overall control and supervision through the Logistical Operations Control Center located at its Saigon headquarters / The diversity of 1st Logistical Command activities was astounding / Under its command were truck units, boat companies, railroad facilities, and airlift and airdrop capabilities / Almost every piece of Army equipment sent to Vietnam was processed, transported, issued, and maintained by the 1st Logistical Command / Not only was the 1st Logistical Command responsible for providing the Army troops with the basic weapons of war, but it also clothed and fed them and supplied them with virtually every amenity available in Post Exchanges / The 1st Logistical Command was redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas on 7 December 1970 and after more than five years of distinguished service, two of its number had won the Medal of Honor, and thousands of others had maintained the distinction of seeing the American Army the best supplied and best equipped in the world

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PAWLOWSKI, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

THEODORE J.

Address: 523 LASALLE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

198TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 46TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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:

Private First-Class Theodore Joseph Pawlowski , Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Theodore Pawlowski was deployed to Vietnam on 17 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Theodore Pawlowski was Killed In Action on 23 February 1969 as a result of enemy mortar fire in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 23 February 1969, the Base Camp at Landing Zone Baldy (Hill 63) in Quang Nam Province came under a hostile mortar barrage during which two men were killed by the deadly shrapnel / One of the casualties was PFC Theodore J. Pawlowski , Jr.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Theodore Pawlowski was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School / Prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army in June 1968, Pawlowski was an accountant for a paint supply firm / Theodore Joseph Pawlowski , Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Theodore Joseph Pawlowski, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 18

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry (1/64) came in-country by ship on 4 October 1967 as part of the 198th Light Infantry Brigade / The 198th became part of the Americal Division / After one month of orientation at Duc Pho, the battalion was deployed north of Chu Lai and patrolled from Hill 54, Hill 69 and LZ Baldy in Quang Tin Province / In March of 1969, the battalion moved to Landing Zone (LZ) Professional, in the mountains southwest of Tien Phuoc, Quang Tin Province, to relieve a battered 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry of the 198th / In July of 1969, the battalion, which had been operating under operational control of the 196th Lightning Infantry Brigade (LIB) of the Americal, became a permanent member of that brigade / The battalion operated from LZ Professional until August of 1970 / In February of 1970, the battalion established a temporary firebase at LZ Mary Ann, at a remote mountain site near Hau Duc, Quang Tin Province / The battalion returned to Mary Ann in the summer of 1970 and operated from there and LZ Young, between Tien Phuoc and Tam Ky, during 1970 and 1971 / The battalion left Mary Ann in April of 1971 when the Americal Division was deactivated and the 196th Brigade reverted to its status as an independent brigade and deployed at Danang, to provide security for the port / The 1/46th left Vietnam in June, 1972 / 232 names on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., approximately half the battalion's actual field strength at any given time in Vietnam, were members of 1/46th, or died while deployed with the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PEARSON

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

DAVID

A.

Address: 227 WYNNWOOD DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: FN

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

USNAVFORV, TASK FORCE (TF) 117, RIVERINE SQUADRON (RIVRON) 9, A 91 4
USS KITTYHAWK

Medals / Citations:

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Fireman David Allen Pearson honorably served in the United States Navy / FN David Pearson was deployed to Vietnam on 30 November 1967 as a Fireman / FN David Pearson was Killed In Action on 23 July 1968 as a result from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Kien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

On 23 July 1968, River Assault Division 91 units with 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry soldiers embarked were enroute to beaching areas on the Giong Trom Canal, eight miles southeast of Ben Tre, RVN, when they were ambushed on the Ben Tre Stream about six miles southeast of Ben Tre / The boats immediately turned toward the ambush positions, saturated the area with machine gun and cannon fire, and landed their infantrymen to counterattack the enemy and search the area / During the battle, the boat captain of Assault Support Patrol Boat 91-4, BM1 John F. Bobb, was killed when a rocket hit the coxswain's flat of his boat / In his last heroic act before he died, BM1 Bobb beached his boat to prevent it from hitting the other boats in the formation / The gradient where the boat was grounded was very steep, and the boat swamped and subsequently sunk / The ASPB was recovered the following day and returned for repairs / The 20mm gunner on the craft, FN David A. Pearson, was also killed when a 75mm recoilless-rifle round severely damaged his gun mount / Ten other sailors were wounded in the battle / A soldier from A Company, 3rd Battalion, PFC James H. Martin, drowned after being caught on the ramp of one of the troop carriers and pulled into the water while the craft was attempting to extract troops off the beach under fire



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

FN Pearson served two tours in Vietnam with River Assault Squadron Nine / The Navy Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to FN David Allen Pearson

FN David Pearson served onboard the USS Kittyhawk from March - September 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Pearson attended Philip Sheridan Elementary School / Pearson graduated from Kenmore East Senior High School and enlisted in the Navy on 26 July 1966 / David Allen Pearson was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Cold Springs Cemetery, Lockport, New York

David Allen Pearson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 51w, Line 43

Naval Fireman stand power plant and ship security watches both while in port and underway / While performing watches, they will ensure all safety standards are being met with any associated engineering machinery / They are responsible for working with safety and fire suppression equipment / A Fireman preserves, maintains, and repairs the safety equipment and any other associated equipment to prepare for underway operations / In addition to performing maintenance on the equipment, they will also perform any emergency equipment repair

The Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), specifically Task Force 117, played a significant role during the Vietnam War / Mobile Riverine Force was a unique combined-arms unit that utilized both naval and ground forces to conduct operations in the complex riverine environment of Vietnam / It included river assault boats, monitors, and other specialized craft / The force played a crucial role in counterinsurgency efforts, patrolling waterways, and engaging enemy forces / USNAVFORV: This stands for United States Naval Forces, Vietnam / It was responsible for coordinating naval operations in the region during the war / TF 117: Task Force 117 was a joint force unit that operated in the Mekong Delta / It consisted of both U.S. Army and U.S. Navy elements / RIVRON 9: Riverine Squadron 9 was part of the Mobile Riverine Force / It included river assault boats and support vessels

USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), formerly CVA-63, was a United States Navy supercarrier. She was the second naval ship named after Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the site of the Wright brothers' first powered airplane flight. Kitty Hawk was the first of the three Kitty Hawk-class aircraft carriers to be commissioned and the last to be decommissioned / She was commissioned on 29 April 1961 and for ten years, Kitty Hawk was the forward-deployed carrier at Yokosuka Naval Base in Yokosuka, Japan / The Kitty Hawk was deployed to serve in the waters of Southeast Asia on 4 November 1966 / She remained in the Far East, supporting the U.S. in Southeast Asia until departing Subic Bay on 28 May 1968 / Kitty Hawk was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for exceptionally meritorious and heroic service from 23 December 1967 to 1 June 1968, which included the Tet Offensive, while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia, and the Navy Unit Meritorious Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service from 15 January 1969 to 27 August 1969 while participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia and contingency operations in Northeast Asia. Both awards noted that the officers and men of the Kitty Hawk displayed undaunted spirit, courage, professionalism, and dedication to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps (including foreign military personnel), distinguishes himself/herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service / To merit this award, the acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner above that normally expected and sufficient to distinguish the individual above those performing similar services as set forth in the following: Outstanding and worthy of special recognition, but not to the degree required for the Bronze Star Medal or Air Medal when combat is involved or the Meritorious Service Medal or Air Medal when combat is not involved / The achievement should be such as to constitute a definite contribution to the Naval Service, such as an invention, or improvement in design, procedure or organization / On 17 January 1991, the "V" (for valor) was authorized for wear on the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal / The "V" is authorized for wear if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations.

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936 / The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" / The Navy Expeditionary Medal was retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PHELPS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DAVID

H.

Address: 517 CRESCENT AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal David Harlow Phelps honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL David Phelps was deployed to Vietnam on 5 August 1968 as a Rifleman / CPL David Phelps was Killed In Action on 7 December 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During Operation MEADE RIVER under the operational control of the 1st Marines, Company A engaged a heavily armed NVA force in fortified positions in the vicinity of Ha Nong Tay / The battle raged throughout the day as the Marines tried to break through the enemy lines until darkness fell / The Marines dug in for the night recovering the bodies of their fallen comrades, among the thirteen men who were killed in the action was CPL David Phelps, who fell from hostile gunshot wounds

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East

Miscellaneous:

David Phelps was a graduate of Bennett High School and School 54 / Phelps enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in November 1965 / David Harlow Phelps was 21 years old at the time of passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Harlow Phelps is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 37w, Line 58

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (1/7) is an infantry battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps / It is currently based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, consisting of approximately 1,000 Marines, it is part of the 1st Marine Division / The 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment was created on 1 April 1921 in San Diego, California / 1/7 deployed to take part in the Pacific Theater during World War II and participated in the battles of Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa / The 1st Battalion, 7th Marines was deployed to Vietnam in August 1965, participating in numerous combat operations such as Starlite, Piranha, Mameluke Thrust and Oklahoma Hills

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: PHILLIPS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DAVID

J.

Address: 52 ELMWOOD AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 7TH SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, B TROOP

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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:

Sergeant David Jeffery Phillips honorably served in the United States Army / SGT David Phillips was deployed to Vietnam on 16 July 1968 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SGT David Phillips was Killed In Action on 8 March 1969 when the helicopter that he was onboard, crashed after receiving enemy ground fire in Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

On 8 March 1969, a U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A (tail number 66-07823) from B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, operating in Binh Thuan Province (II Corps) was working a ridge line due west of Phan Thiet, when the aircraft was hit by hostile enemy small arms fire (AK-47) / Rounds hit the fuselage causing the helicopter to crash / Both the pilot, WO1 Walter A. Carpenter, and the observer, SGT David J. Phillips, suffered fatal injuries in the crash

Sergeant David Phillips was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

David Phillips attended Bennett High School before entering the U.S. Army on 1 April 1967 / David Jeffery Phillips was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Bemus Point Cemetery, Ellery Center, New York

David Jeffery Phillips is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 30w, Line 80

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

The 1st Aviation Brigade is an aviation brigade of the United States Army, stationed at Fort Novosel in Alabama / In accordance with The Naming Commission recommendations Fort Rucker was renamed Fort Novosel in early 2023 / The 1st Aviation Brigade traces its origins to the Vietnam War / In April 1965 the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional) was activated with the existing 13th, 14th, 52nd, and 145th Aviation Battalions already in South Vietnam / In August 1965 it became the 12th Aviation Group, which then doubled in size and was used to form the 1st Aviation Brigade in March 1966 / The companies supporting Army of the Republic of Vietnam units were located in centralized positions to best provide support / The brigade assigned one combat aviation battalion headquarters in direct support of each infantry division and this battalion headquarters normally worked with that division no matter how many companies might be assigned for a specific mission / The Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was located in Saigon from May 1966 until August 1967 / The HQ then moved to Long Binh where it remained until Long Binh was closed in the early autumn of 1972 / The HQ then moved to the MACV compound at Tan Son Nhut, where it stayed until withdrawal

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PIERCE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

RONALD

S.

Address: 380 OAKVALE BOULEVARD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private Ronald Shafer Pierce honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Ronald Pierce was deployed to Vietnam on 26 April 1969 as a Rifleman / PVT Ronald Pierce was Killed In Action on 7 May 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

When Ronald arrived in Vietnam on 26 April 1969, he was assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division / The battalion was participating in Operation Darling Rebel in the Barrier Island area centered 5 kilometers southeast of Hoi An, when Ronald was wounded by a hostile explosive device, at approximately 0030H and was med-evac to a Station Hospital in Danang, where he died at approximately 2330H, as a result of fragmentation wounds to the body

Base Assignments:

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Pierce Ronald attended Benjamin Franklin Junior High, before dropping out and enlisting in the U.S. Marines Corps in March 1967 / Ronald Shafer Pierce was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Ronald Shafer Pierce is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 19

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) was a United States Marine Corps unit / Following the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in August 1964, the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was activated / It consisted of 9th Marine Regiment regimental headquarters and three battalion landing teams (BLT) / Almost 6,000 men were transformed into an effective force in readiness / The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was deactivated on 6 May 1965 and reactivated on 1 March 1966 as 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) on Okinawa, Japan and landed in Vietnam on 8 March 1965 / the 9th MAB participated in Operation Osage in South Vietnam between 27 April and 3 May 1966 / The 9th MAB was assigned to the mission of destroying a VC battalion and elements of a People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) regiment reported to be operating in Thừa Thiên-Huế Province / The 9th MAB provided Battalion Landing Team (BLT) of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines for Operation Deckhouse IV from 15–18 September 1966 / The 9th MAB's Marines killed over 200 PAVN soldiers from 90th Regiment with the loss of 36 Marines / During the rest of the year, the 9th MAB and its units were stationed off the northern coast of South Vietnam in order to provide force for the defense of Vietnam Demilitarized Zone in case of emergency / The 9th MAB launched the Operation Deckhouse VI on 16 February 1967 in order to disrupt enemy movement in the vicinity of Sa Huynh salt flats, search northward in the Nui Dat area, and, finally, link up with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, then operating around Nui Dat in Operation Desoto / The 9th MAB took part in the Operation Beaver Cage between 28 April and 13 May 1967 and Operation Dewey Canyon / In 1969, it was announced that the regiment would be part of the 25,000 man withdrawal from Vietnam, ending more than four years of combat actions in Vietnam for the 9th Marines

The 26th Marine Regiment (26th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The 26th Marines were activated in 1944 and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and were activated again on 1 March 1966, and fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War / On 1 March 1966 the 26th Marine Regiment was activated at Camp Pendleton initiating the formation of the 5th Marine Division / The regimental headquarters arrived in South Vietnam on 26 April 1967 / In mid-May 1967, following the conclusion of The Hill Fights, the 26th Marines took over responsibility for the area around Khe Sanh from the 3rd Marines as Operation Crockett / The 26th Marines conducted Operation Ardmores a search and destroy mission in the Khe Sanh area from 17 July-31 October 1967 / At the conclusion of Operation Ardmores the Marines commenced Operation Scotland, the defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base and search and destroy missions against People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration / From 21 January 1968 the 26th Marines were under siege at Khe Sanh until the conclusion of Operation Pegasus on 14 April 1968 and were replaced by the 1st Marines on 15 April 1968 / From 11 to 19 March 1970 the regiment redeployed from South Vietnam and was inactivated / The 26th Marines were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Khe Sanh as were the Seabees that supported them

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **POLNIAK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

J.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MACV, 507TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP, 4TH TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Captain Robert Joseph Polniak honorably served in the United States Army / CPT Robert Polniak was deployed to Vietnam on 3 November 1970 as a Transportation Movements Officer / Captain Robert Polniak was Killed In Action on 29 November 1970 when the aircraft he was onboard, crashed in bad weather in Ninh Thuan Province, South Vietnam

On 29 November 1970, a USAF C-123K Provider (#54-0649), Flight Bookie 540, from the 310th Tactical Airlift Squadron, was on a routine milk run (passenger) mission from Phan Rang to Cam Rahn Bay when it crashed into a mountain ridge 14 miles outside Cam Rahn Bay / The Provider crashed in poor weather, striking high ground at an altitude of 2700 feet in thick clouds / On board the aircraft were 44 people, consisting of 5 crewmen and 39 passengers / There were 32 U.S. military and 12 South Vietnamese soldiers / Two ARVN survivors were found five days later walking toward a road / The crash site was located after a week on December 5th by U.S. Army Rangers and South Vietnamese Rangers / They found two U.S. survivors, CAPT Vincent J. Fairbrother Jr. and SGT Gary Aldredge, who had endured the week with no food or water / Thirty U.S. military plus ten ARVN troops were killed. The lost crew included pilot CAPT Cecil G. Moyer Jr., co-pilot 1LT James F. Saxby, and crewmen SSGT Grayson H. Newberry, SSGT Harry A. Watson, and CAPT Norbert A. Podhajsky. The U.S. passengers killed were SGT Jack R. Gibbs, TSGT Robert B. Johnson, SGT James E. Stubblefield, SMS Bobby D. Seay, SSGT James C. Starnes, 1LT Elmon C. Caudill II, 1LT Jon M. King, PVT Gary Anderson, A1C James B. Young, CWO Franklin D. Defenbaugh, SP4 Samuel A. Grayson III, SP4 Charles A. Johnson, SP4 Donald A. Slate, 1LT Charles L. Kollenberg, SGT Ronnie C. Teschendorf, SP4 George Beedy, SGT Billy J. Hogan Jr., SGT Raymond H. Gray, SGT Joseph C. Blackwell, PFC Joseph A. Jacques, PFC Arthur J. Menn, SP4 Ronald R. Greenhouse, SSGT Ralph S. Guck, CAPT



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

William D. Kennedy III, and CAPT Robert J. Polniak

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Polniak graduated from Bishop Ryan High School in 1964 / Polniak went to Canisius College of Buffalo, graduating in June 1968 with a BA in history and a commission in the United States Army Reserve / Robert Joseph Polniak was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii

Robert Joseph Polniak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 06w, Line 95

During the Vietnam War, the Transportation Corps played a crucial role in ensuring the movement of troops, supplies, and equipment / The Transportation Movements Officer (TMO) was responsible for coordinating and overseeing transportation operations within the military / They supervised personnel performing various duties, including Motor Transport Operators, Traffic Management Coordinators, and Terminal Operations Coordinators / During the Vietnam War, the Transportation Corps adapted to its role in the use and sustainment of rotary-wing aviation / They fielded new aircraft, and aviation maintainers adopted the motto of "Find 'em, Fix 'em, and Fly 'em" to keep the helicopters operational

Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Teams were out there alone- not on base camps, air bases or at sea / Small groups of Americans often in remote areas supported only by Vietnamese forces whose capabilities and loyalty were sometimes suspect / Military Assistance Command Vietnam (Saigon) had authority over all branches of service operating in the Republic of Vietnam / US Army advisors were under the direct command of MACV and were administered independently from the United States Army Vietnam (Long Binh / Most advisory teams were comprised of approximately 35 US advisors under the local command of a senior advisor / These advisors fought alongside Vietnamese ARVN and militia units / Although they did not share in the public limelight of their USARV counterparts, their mission was an integral part of US strategy in Vietnam / MACV arrived in-country on 8 February 1962, and departed over a decade later on 29 March 1973

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960-) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **PRAST**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

MARTIN

T.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (2)

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant Martin Thomas Prast honorably served in the United States Army / 1st LT Martin Prast was deployed to Vietnam as an Infantry Unit Commander / 1LT Martin Prast was Wounded In Action on 30 January 1970 from an enemy explosive device during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

1LT Martin Prast had already earned the Purple Heart twice when on 30 January 1970, Prast was severely wounded when a booby trap blew up in his chest / Injured, he crawled back to his platoon to insure the safety of his men / Prast was placed on a supply helicopter and evacuated to a field hospital / There the medical staff determined in triage that Lieutenant Prast was beyond saving / He was left on a stretcher outside / Both lungs had collapsed and shrapnel wounds pierced his heart / One arm was dislocated and it did not look good for 1st Lieutenant Marty Prast / After completing surgery on other wounded soldiers, medical personnel saw that, despite the odds, Prast was still very much alive / The doctors decided to amputate his badly mangled and dislocated arm / Martin Prast survived, but was left a paraplegic

Martin Prast went home to Grand Island, New York / After returning from Vietnam and while recuperating from his wounds, he formed the Blind, Crippled, and Crazy Racing Club in Grand Island / In 1988 he was elected Grand Island Supervisor / His administration oversaw the development of Veterans Park, a system of bike paths, and a new library / Although Prast died 28 years after being wounded, the Defense Department was persuaded to classify him as a casualty of the war / On Memorial Day 1999, the name "Martin Thomas Prast" was added to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington

1st Lieutenant Martin Prast was a Green Beret paratrooper, rising in rank from Private to First Lieutenant / 1LT Prast was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for heroic service in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Martin Prast was born in Heidelberg, Germany and came to the United States as an infant Prast attended Grand Island schools, was a graduate of Canisius High School and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in finance from Canisius College / Prast enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1968 / Returning to Grand Island as a paraplegic, Martin Prast helped develop the "paco brace," which enables paraplegics to stand and move without crutches / The winner of several local, state and national awards, he served on committees to remove barriers to the handicapped from public buildings / Martin Prast was elected as Grand Island Tax Receiver in 1979 and also served four terms as Councilman / Prast was elected as Grand Island Town Supervisor in 1988 and served one term / Prast was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #9241; Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #168; Eastern Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #77 / Martin Thomas Prast passed away on 21 January 1998 at the age of 50 years old and is interred at Whitehaven Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

Martin Thomas Prast is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08w, Line 81

Infantry Unit Commanders lead and control the Infantry and combined armed forces during land operations / Other duties include coordinating employment of Infantry Soldiers at all levels of command, including multinational operations / Developing infantry doctrine, organizations, and equipment unique to these operations

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) - nicknamed the "Red Diamond", or the "Red Devils", was an infantry division of the United States Army that served in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, and with NATO and the U.S. Army III Corps / The 5th Division was organized in December 1917 from Regular Army troops as a part of the program for the expansion of the armed forces for service in World War I / In 1968 the division was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, as a mechanized formation / 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to South Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to replace a U.S. Marine Corps unit / The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971 defending the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in northern Quảng Trị Province / It was inactivated on 24 November 1992 and reflagged as the 2nd Armored Division

The 11th Infantry Brigade is an inactive infantry brigade of the United States Army / It was first formed as part of the 6th Division during World War I / It is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division from 1967 through 1971 in the Vietnam War as a light infantry brigade / The 11th Infantry Brigade was deployed to South Vietnam in December 1967 due to a need for additional American troops there and during the Vietnam War served in the United States Army's 23rd Infantry Division (called the Americal Division) / For its service in



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Vietnam, the entire 11th was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for 1969 and 1970 / The brigade was inactivated at Fort Lewis on 30 November 1971

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The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: RAUSCH

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

E.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: MAJOR

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

12TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, 460TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING, 7TH
AIR FORCE

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Major Robert E. Rausch honorably served in the United States Air Force / Major Robert Rausch was a Pilot and Navigator and was Killed in Action on 16 April 1970 over Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

On 16 April 1970, an RF-4C Phantom with a two man crew of Major Ayers and Captain Robert E. Rausch departed Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon to conduct reconnaissance along the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Vietnam as well as the adjacent area of Savannakhet Province, Laos / They refueled in flight and advised their controller that they were heading north to another target area / The new target area was known to be a high threat area with 37mm and other anti-aircraft weapons / They were last reported over Savannakhet Province but did not return from their mission and were declared missing in action / During the period he was reported missing, Robert E. Rausch was promoted to the rank of Major

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Major Robert E. Rausch was 35 years of age at the time of his death

In the first four full months of operation in Southeast Asia, crews of the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

flew 2,014 combat sorties against pinpoint, strip, and area cover targets in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Laos. Approximately two-thirds of these were flown at night / Continuous information on enemy supply movements, troop concentrations, and fortifications was obtained from aerial photography taken by the 12th / In addition, photography taken by the unit was used in bomb damage assessment, base defense planning, and enemy air defense site detection / The 12th flew more than 26,000 combat sorties and 53,000 hours over a 5-year period. This was more than in both World Wars and Korea combined

The Phantom, used by Air Force, Marine and Navy air wings, served a multitude of functions including fighter-bomber and interceptor, photo and electronic surveillance. The two man aircraft was extremely fast (Mach 2), and had a long range (900 - 2300 miles, depending on stores and mission type). The F4 was also extremely maneuverable and handled well at low and high altitudes. Most pilots considered it one of the "hottest" planes around

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

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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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: REEDER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

BRENT

A.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP 18 (MACG-18), MARINE AIR
SUPPORT SQUADRON (MASS) 2

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private Brent Alexander Reeder honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Brent Reeder was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1967 as an Air Traffic Controller / PVT Brent Reeder was Killed In Action on 15 November 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Brent Alexander Reeder was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California

Brent Alexander Reeder is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39w, Line 71

Marine Air Traffic Controllers assist in the control of air traffic and vehicles within designated areas / Air Traffic Controllers in charge of ensuring all landing, taking off and traffic movement inside an airport are performed



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

safely and smoothly

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is an aviation unit of the United States Marine Corps that serves as the Aviation Combat Element of the III Marine Expeditionary Force / The wing is headquartered at Camp Foster on the island of Okinawa, Japan / Activated in 1940, the wing has seen heavy combat operations during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War / The mission of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is to conduct air operations in support of the Fleet Marine Forces to include offensive air support, antiair warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance including active and passive electronic countermeasures (ECM), and control of aircraft and missiles

Marine Air Support Squadron 2 (MASS-2) is a vital component of Marine Air Control Group 18 (MACG-18), which operates under the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) / MACG-18: This group is one of five within the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. It comprises several squadrons and units, including MASS-2, Marine Air Control Squadron 4 (MACS-4), Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 (MWCS-18), Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18 (MTACS-18), and Personnel Support Detachment 18 (PSD-18) / MASS-2's Role: MASS-2 provides Direct Air Support Center (DASC) capabilities / Their mission involves controlling and coordinating aircraft that operate in direct support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) forces / In August 1967, MASS-2 became part of the newly activated MACG-18 within the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Notably, in January 1969, the squadron assumed operational control of the Vandegrift DASC, located near Route 9, just south of the "Rockpile" / Hill 55 ASRT near DaNang was deployed by helo-lift to Fire Support Base Cunningham to support the 9th Marines in Operation DEWEY CANYON / When DEWEY CANYON was completed, an ASRT was deployed to Fire Support Base Birmingham to support more 101st Airborne Division operations in the Ashau area / On 18 April 1969, the Squadron's Command Post was moved by convoy from DaNang to Dong Ha / On 10 July 1969, the Vandegrift DASC was re-designated a Helicopter Direction Center and continued to operate in this capacity in support of the remaining units of the 3d Marine Division / The Squadron redeployed to Iwakuni, Japan, in 1969 and, in 1973, became home-based at Futenma, Okinawa

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: REICHERT

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

R.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 17TH CAVALRY, E TROOP

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Joseph Richard Reichert honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Joseph Reichert was deployed to Vietnam on 6 August 1966 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SSGT Joseph Reichert died on 3 January 1967 from a military jeep crash in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On 3 January 1967, SSGT Reichert was the driver of a military vehicle which attempted to pass another vehicle and overturned / SSGT Joseph Reichert suffered fatal injuries in the accident

SSGT Joseph Reichert was posthumously award the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in a combat zone

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Richard Reichert was 26 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Grandview Cemetery, Monessen, Pennsylvania

Joseph Richard Reichert is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13e, Line 113



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers") is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United States Army / Activated in 1915, as the 173rd Infantry Brigade, the unit saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed to South Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The brigade returned to the United States in 1972, where the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, were absorbed into the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery was reassigned to Division Artillery in the 101st / The remaining units of the 173rd were inactivated

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

The 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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, 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 Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: REICHLIN, JR.

JOSEPH

A.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 569 EAST AMHERST STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 282ND AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Warrant Officer 1 Joseph Albert Reichlin, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Joseph Reichlin was deployed to Vietnam on 15 January 1968 as a Helicopter Gunship Pilot / WO1 Joseph Reichlin was Killed In Action on 10 May 1968 when his helicopter was hit by enemy gunfire and killing WO1 Reichlin in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 10 May 1968, WO1 Joseph A. Reichlin Jr. was piloting U.S. Army helicopter UH-1B, tail number 64-13916, a "Frog" gunship from the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company / While in flight the aircraft came under hostile small arms fire (AK-47) / A single round entered the cockpit area through the windshield, striking WO1 Reichlin in the head / The helicopter was able to continue flight and landed safely / The attack resulted in a fatal injury to WO1 Joseph Reichlin / Reichlin was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Wolters, Texas - Fort Wolters was a United States military installation four miles northeast of Mineral Wells, Texas / The fort was originally named Camp Wolters in honor of Brigadier General Jacob F. Wolters, commander of the 56th Cavalry Brigade of the National Guard, which used the area as a summer training ground / It was an Army camp from 1925 until 1946 / During World War II, Camp Wolters was at one time the largest infantry replacement training center in the United States / Camp Wolters also served as a German POW camp during the war / After the World War II, the camp was deactivated and purchased for private use / Due to rising tensions in the Cold War, the site was reactivated as Wolters Air Force Base in 1951 / Wolters Air Force Base was one of the facilities that trained Special Category Army Personnel With the Air Force (SCARWAF) units, and later the Aviation Engineer Force that replaced them / It also was used as a storage depot for Air Force equipment / In 1956, Camp Wolters reverted to the United States Army to house the United States Army Primary Helicopter School / In 1963, it was designated a "permanent" military base and renamed Fort Wolters / In June 1963, the post was re-designated Fort Wolters, a permanent military installation and U.S. Army Primary Helicopter Center / The base was deactivated in 1973

Ft. Rucker, Alabama - Fort Rucker (Formerly Camp Rucker) is a U.S. Army post located primarily in Dale County, Alabama, United States / Opened on 1 May 1942, it was named for a Civil War officer, Confederate General Edmund Rucker / The post is the primary flight training installation for U.S. Army Aviators and is home to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) and the United States Army Aviation Museum / Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of units of less than division size; these included tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units / During the latter part of the Second World War, several hundred German and a few Italian prisoners-of-war were housed in stockades near the railroad east of the warehouse area, on the southern edge of the post / The 91st Infantry Division was sent to Camp Rucker at the end of the war, being deactivated in December 1945 / Camp Rucker was inactive from March 1946 until August 1950 / It was reopened during the Korean War / The name was changed to "Fort Rucker" in October 1955 / The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls for the establishment of an eight-person committee to develop a plan to remove all names, symbols, displays, and monuments that honor or commemorate the Confederacy from all Department of Defense assets, including Fort Rucker / In 2021, the Moore family started a petition to rename the fort in honor of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black brigadier general in the USAF

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Reichlin was a graduate of Bishop Fallon High School / Reichlin graduated in 1965 from the State University of Buffalo with a Associate's Degree in Business Administration / Joseph Albert Reichlin, Jr. was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Joseph Albert Reichlin, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 58e, Line 14

Helicopter Gunship Pilots were skilled officers who controled and fflew 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 /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

In January 1967, the 282nd Aviation Company was deployed to Vietnam to the I and II Corps advisory effort to South Vietnam / The gauntlet of support rendered I and II Corps necessitated company personnel and aircraft to be garrisoned in selected and separate sites over the I and II Corps area / Ten aircraft were assigned to I Corps, two at Hue Citadel, two at Quang Ngai and six at Da Nang / Sixteen aircraft were assigned to II Corps, eight each at Pleiku and An Son / The unit supported a great variety of missions, carrying in its twenty six assigned aircraft, passengers that ranged from prisoners of war to military and government VIPs and cargo that ranged from medical supplies and ammunition to live animals for food supplies / An urgent mission for the "Alleycats" was called down well before first light on 8 July 1967 / Elements of the 1st ARVN Division were under heavy attack in an area north of Quang Tri / The gunship platoon ("Alleycats") responded immediately, deploying six gunships to the area / Making contact with the enemy, they distinguished themselves in a five hour battle by engaging the enemy in the open areas, tree lines and fortified bunkers / As a result of their superior performances, they were able to boast 193 enemy killed by air (body count) / Through their exemplary action, the ground troops were able to capture eleven prisoners, 68 individual weapons and 26 crew served weapons / This operation has been described as the biggest single victory for an ARVN unit

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: REYNOLDS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DAVID

R.

Address: 307-B LANGFIELD DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class David Richard Reynolds honorably served in the United States Army / PFC David Reynolds was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC David Reynolds was Killed In Action on 21 November 1967 from enemy small arms fire on Hill 875, Kontum Province, South Vietnam

Private First Class David Richard Reynolds, who joined the U.S. Army from New York, was a member of Company B, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade / On 21 November 1967, he served as radio operator for Company B during a combat mission in South Vietnam / During a fight against enemy forces on Hill 875, PFC Reynolds was killed by enemy small arms fire / His body was left on the battlefield in the vicinity of (GC) YB 797 137 when his unit was forced to withdraw to allow artillery and air strikes on the hill / On 25 November 1967, U.S. troops initiated a three-day search of Hill 875 and the surrounding area / They recovered several sets of remains; however, PFC Reynolds was not among them / He is still unaccounted for following the incident / Private First Class Reynolds is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

David Reynolds was a graduate of School 82 and attended Kensington High School before entering the U.S. Army in January 1967 / David Richard Reynolds was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is memorialized at the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

David Richard Reynolds is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 30e, Line 60

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 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers") is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United States Army / Activated in 1915, as the 173rd Infantry Brigade, the unit saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed to South Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The brigade returned to the United States in 1972, where the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, were absorbed into the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery was reassigned to Division Artillery in the 101st / The remaining units of the 173rd were inactivated

The 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II; at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in Okinawa, Japan; and in Germany. Regimental elements have been assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, the 11th Airborne Division, the 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / In May 1965, two battalions of the 503rd Infantry deployed as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Vietnam as the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed, joined later by 4-503rd Inf and 3-503rd Inf / During its six years in Vietnam, the four battalions of the 503rd participated in fourteen campaigns, earning two more Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 3rd Battalion, 503rd was relieved and reactivated as 3rd-187th 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and on 14 January 1972 reassigned to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II, ten from Vietnam, and three from Afghanistan

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **RICE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

HERBERT

C.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CAPT

Year Entered: 1957

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

14TH AIR COMMANDO WING, 4TH AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL W/2 OAK CLUSTERS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Captain Herbert Charles Rice honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Herbert Rice was deployed to Vietnam on 28 December 1966 as a Tactical Aircraft Pilot / CAPT Herbert Rice was Killed In Action on 29 March 1967 when his AC-47 Dragon-ship was hit by groundfire and crashed in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Captain Herbert Rice graduated in 1957 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force / CAPT Rice reported to primary flying school at Graham Air Force Base in Marianna, Florida and then to Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas, for multi-engine basic training / After earning his silver wings, Captain Herbert Rice was assigned to Strategic Air Command, first to B-47 training at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas and then to B-52s / He completed five years as a B-52 pilot with the Strategic Air Command at Loring Air Force Base in Maine / 1965, Rice was selected for an Air Force Institute of Technology-sponsored MBA program at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles / In June 1966 after graduation, he received orders for Vietnam / Rice trained at Hurlbert Field as a pilot in the AC-47 gunship / He departed for Vietnam on December 26, 1966

On 29 March 1967, Captain Herbert Rice volunteered to fill in as copilot for an ill crewmember on an AC-47 gunship mission / He was on a mission aboard AC-47D #44-76534 of the 4th Air Commando Squadron detachment at Danang / They had been dispatched to help defend an outpost near Hoi An, about 10 miles



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

south of Danang /

The aircraft arrived over the target and established perimeter orbit, but they were hit by intense automatic weapons fire and crashed a few miles from Hoi An / All seven crewmen died in the crash

Captain Herbert Charles Rice was an alumnus of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY / He selected Air Force and received his commission as a 2nd Lt in the U.S. Air Force upon graduation / He was one of 335 men from West Point who died or are MIA in Southeast Asia/Indochina during the period October, 1957 – September, 1972

The AC-47 Dragon-ship, used for close air support, carried a crew of seven / Nicknamed "Puff the Magic Dragon", the converted AC-47s flew in tight circles while firing, making them vulnerable to ground fire

Captain Herbert Rice was awarded the Silver Star and the Air Force Commendation Medal for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States

Base Assignments:

Hurlburt Field, Florida – Hurlburt Field is a United States Air Force installation located in Okaloosa County, Florida, immediately west of the town of Mary Esther / It is part of the greater Eglin Air Force Base reservation and is home to Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), the 1st Special Operations Wing (1 SOW), the USAF Special Operations School (USAFSOS) and the Air Combat Command's (ACC) 505th Command and Control Wing / The field was named for First Lieutenant Donald Wilson Hurlburt, who died in a crash at Eglin / In the early 1960s, Hurlburt was utilized as a Strategic Air Command dispersal base for B-47s of the 306th Bomb Wing at MacDill AFB, Florida / The USAF Special Operations School (USAFSOS) trains US Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US government civilian personnel in a variety of courses, including courses in Dynamics of International Terrorism, and the Middle East Orientation Course

Graham Air Force Base, Marianna, Florida - Graham AB was a United States Air Force base located in Marianna, Florida / The airfield opened on 8 August 1942 and was used as a training base for the Southeast Army Air Force Training Command / The Army Air Forces Pilot School (Advanced-Single Engine) was activated on 1 September 1942, with the 17th Single Engine Flying Training Group being the Operational Training Unit / Aircraft used during training were P-40 Warhawks and AT-6 Texans / During World War II, the mission of the base was changed from the training of pilots for single-engine pursuit fighter aircraft to training of combat crews for the A-26 Invader light bomber aircraft / The Air Force closed Graham AB in late 1960 and was reused as Marianna Municipal Airport

Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama - Maxwell AFB, officially known as Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, is a United States Air Force (USAF) located in Montgomery, Alabama, United States / Occupying the site of the first Wright Flying School, it was named in honor of Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, a native of Atmore, Alabama / The base is the headquarters of Air University (AU), a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC), and is the U.S. Air Force's center for Joint Professional Military Education (PME) / The field served as a repair depot during World War I and trained U.S. military aviators and their support teams for wartime service during World War II

Reese Air Force Base, Lubbock, Texas - Lubbock Field officially opened on 22 January 1942 and was originally known as the Lubbock Army Air Corps Advanced Flying School and offered primary flight training to cadets &



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

instrument training for pilots / The base was renamed to the Lubbock Army Flying School in early 1943, and then to Lubbock Army Airfield later that year / Aircraft flown from the base during WW2 included the T-6 Texan, AT-17 Bobcat, and AT-9 Jeep / The base was closed at the end of 1945, after graduating 7,009 pilots / In the post-WW2 years, the base was reportedly used as a meeting place for National Guard, Air Reserve, and Naval Reserve units / Lubbock was reactivated by the Air Force in 1949 as a multiengine pilot-training base / It was named Lubbock Air Force Base, until being renamed Reese Air Force Base in late 1949 / Reese Air Force Base is named in honor of 1st Lt Augustus F. Reese, Jr., of Shallowater, Texas, who lived about ten miles north of the base / He was killed in action at Cagliari, Sardinia, 14 May 1943, while flying a P-38 on a voluntary mission to destroy a railroad supply train / Lieutenant Reese was honored when his name was selected for the base at the suggestion of a committee of Lubbock residents / The main aircraft used at Reese during this period was the TB-25 Mitchell bomber, which was used to train student officers & aviation cadets / The AT-6 Texan was also used starting in 1949 to augment multi-engine pilot training / The last AT-6 training mission took place at Lubbock on 19 May 1953 / The TB-25 was used at Reese until the base was converted to single-engine jet training in 1959 / The supersonic T-38 was used at Reese starting in 1963 to permit qualification of pilots for quicker transition to larger and faster aircraft / The Reese Air Force Base was closed in 1997 / In its history, Reese had trained a total of 25,349 pilots

McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas - McConnell AFB is a United States Air Force base located four miles southeast of the central business district of Wichita, a city in Sedgwick County, Kansas / The airbase was named in honor of the brothers Fred and Thomas McConnell of Wichita, who had both been Air Force pilots and veterans of World War II / It is the home of Air Mobility Command's 22nd Air Refueling Wing (22 ARW), Air Force Reserve Command's 931st Air Refueling Wing (931 ARW), and the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Wing / McConnell's primary mission is to provide global reach by conducting air refueling and airlift where and when needed

Miscellaneous:

Herbert Rice, a native of Olean and moved to Hamburg in 1945 / Rice graduated from Hamburg Central School / Herbert Rice was a 1957 graduate of the United States Military Academy / Herbert Charles Rice was 32 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at United States Military Academy, Post Cemetery, West Point, New York

Herbert Charles Rice is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 17e, Line 69

The 14th Air Commando Wing was activated at Nha Trang on 8 March 1966 and was the host unit at the base until 15 October 1969 when it moved to Phan Rang Air Base / The airfield was managed by the 14th Combat Support Group / On its establishment the 14th Wing assumed control of all USAF squadrons at Nha Trang and the 1st Air Commando Squadron (before it moved to Pleiku Air Base) and it later assumed control of the 20th Helicopter Squadron / In January 1967 Flight C from the 4th Air Commando Squadron equipped with AC-47 Spooky gunships began operating from the base / In late December 1968, the 71st Special Operations Squadron equipped with AC-119G Shadow gunships arrived from Lockbourne Air Force Base and began operations from the base / On 1 June 1969 the 17th Special Operations Squadron equipped with AC-119G gunships was activated at Nha Trang and it replaced the 71st Special Operations Squadron which returned to Bakalar Air Force Base for



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

inactivation / In mid-1969, as part of the process of Vietnamization, USAF units at Nha Trang began to relocate or inactivate and by October 1969 all USAF units had left the base and only 800 USAF personnel remained there to support operations until the handover of the base to the RVNAF in 1970

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

The 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 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 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

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces, those being for Air Force, Army, and Naval (to include Marine and Coast Guard) aviation / Air Force Pilot and Army Aviator Badges are issued in three ratings: Basic, Senior, and Command (Air Force)/Master (Army) / The higher degrees are denoted by a star or star with wreath above the badge. Air Force regulations state that the basic rating denotes completion of specified training and that the advanced ratings denote experience levels / The Naval Aviator Badge is issued to pilots upon designation as a Naval Aviator for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviators who successfully complete flight training / There is a single badge design regardless of an individual's further qualifications

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROEMER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

DONALD

P.

Address: 510 NEW ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Donald Peter Roemer honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Donald Roemer was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman on 14 December 1967 / SP4 Donald Roemer was Killed In Action on 19 February 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore (Ft. Benning was renamed as Fort Moore on 11 May 2023)

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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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:

Donald Roemer attended Attica and Williamsville Central High School / Roemer entered the U.S. Army in April 1967 / Donald Peter Roemer was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Donald Peter Roemer is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 40e, Line 30

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 22nd Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment of the United States Army / It was deployed to South Vietnam as part of the 2d Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division and conducted operations in the Central Highlands / It was inactivated in August 1984 at Fort Carson, Colorado / Currently the 2nd Battalion is active, with the regimental colors residing at Fort Drum, New York / The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions have been inactivated

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses25th Infantry Division, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, B Company



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ROESE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LANCASTER

ALAN

J.

Address: 357 WESTWOOD ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 16TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Alan John Roese honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Alan Roese was deployed to Vietnam on 8 October 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Alan Roese was Killed In Action on 17 June 1967 from enemy small arms fire during the Battle of Xom Bo Li, Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam

Operation Billings (12-26 June 1967) was planned and conducted by the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division to destroy elements of the Viet Cong (VC) 271st Regiment, 9th Division which occupied base camp areas north of Phuoc Vinh in Binh Duong Province, RVN / The operation began with 1st Infantry battalions moving progressively north of Phuoc Vinh / Intelligence suggested that the 271st had moved to a large clearing designated Landing Zone (LZ) X-Ray / Third Brigade troops moved from another LZ overland to LZ X-Ray / On the morning of 17 June, the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment entered X-Ray / The 1/16th Infantry established a perimeter in the tree line around the clearing and waited for the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment to arrive / As the first units of 2/28th Infantry appeared, a patrol reported a group of VC approaching from the northwest / At 1:00 PM, the enemy attacked, penetrating the northern and northwestern perimeters before being forced back by artillery and gunship fire / The VC launched a second attack against the southeast perimeter, overrunning the defending platoon, the survivors withdrawing into the center of the perimeter / At 1:45 PM, air strikes forced the VC to withdraw, and they disengaged under cover of a steady mortar barrage / U.S. losses were 36 killed / They included: (B/2/28) PFC Richard A. Anderson, PFC Alan W. Denney, PFC Alan J. Farhat, SGT Bobby Minton, SP4 Michael J. Morrow, PFC Victoriano P. Sosa Jr., PFC James E. Starks, SP5 John H. Stout, and



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

PFC Lloyd C. Wohlford Jr.; (HHC/1/16) PFC William N. Cole, PFC Gary J. Ernst, SP4 Sammy L. Holmes, SP4 Charles W. Hook, 1LT Douglas A. Logan (posthumously awarded the Silver Star medal), PFC Wallace G. Nye, SP4 Martin L. Plotkin, PFC Leroy Reed, and PFC Douglas D. Wallin (died of wounds 08/26/1967); (A/1/16) PFC John A. Brantley, PFC Emanuel K. Brickhouse, PFC Jerry R. Cook, SP4 Guy W. Clinger Jr., PFC Ronald D. Edenfield, PFC James M. Elchert, PFC Robert T. Harris, SGT Edward E. Heyer, SP4 Carl T. Johnson, PFC Charles P. Kelly, PFC Robert S. Maguire, SP4 Howard A. Mucha, SP4 Stephen M. Noggle, SP4 Wayne A. Pettersen, SGT Frank G. Romo (B/1/16), PFC Paul E. Kelly Jr., PFC Edward A. Smith and SGT Alan J. Roesse / A search of the immediate area found 226 VC dead / Over the next few days, the Americans found more VC dead, including one assembly area where 35 were found killed by artillery and airstrikes

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alan Roesse was a 1964 graduate of Lancaster Central High School and enlisted in the US Army in 1965 / Alan John Roesse was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Alan John Roesse is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 2

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 16th Infantry Regiment ("Semper Paratus") is a regiment in the United States Army and has traditionally been a part of the 1st Infantry Division / The 16th Infantry was constituted as the 11th U.S. Infantry on 4 May 1861 / During the Spanish-American War, the 16th participated in the capture of San Juan Hill as part of the First Brigade, First Division of the V Corps / During World War I, The 16th participated in the Battle of Argonne Forest and the Meuse-Argonne Campaign / The 16th fought throughout France during World War II / In 443 days of combat, the 16th Infantry had sustained 1,250 officers and men killed in combat / An additional 6,278 were wounded or missing in action / Its men had earned four Medals of Honor, 87 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 1,926 Silver Stars / Additionally, the regiment, or its subordinate units, was awarded five presidential unit citations and two distinguished unit citations from the United States, two Croix de Guerre and the Medaille militaire from the government of France, and the Belgian Fourragere and two citations from the government of Belgium / In 1965, the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment became the first elements of the Division to deploy to South Vietnam / The 16th conducted "Search and Destroy" operations during Operations Mastiff, Bushmaster, Abilene, Birmingham, El Paso, Attleboro, Cedar Falls and Junction City / The 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam, on 10 October 1965 with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division / The battalion was initially moved to Camp Ben Cat in Phuoc Vinh Province north of Saigon / The battalion joined in a number of combat operations such as Bear Trap, Friendship, Kentucky Cougar, Iron Danger and Toan Thang IV / The First and Second battalions of the 16th Infantry fought in almost every campaign of the Vietnam War / In April 1970, the 1st/16th was withdrawn from Vietnam along with the rest of the 1st Infantry Division and the bulk of the division was relocated to Fort Riley, Kansas / During almost five years of combat, the 16th Infantry Regiment lost over 560 men, the regiment's soldiers were awarded 2 Medals of Honor (both posthumous), 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, and hundreds of Silver and Bronze Star Medals / The regiment was awarded 11 campaign streamers, as well as 2 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (with Palm) Streamers for 1965-1968 and 1969 and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal (First Class) Streamer for 1965-1970 / In addition, C Company, 2nd Battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Award Streamer for its actions at the battle of Courtenay Plantation

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROGERS IV**
WILLIAM J.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

Address: 703 PARKHURST BOULEVARD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal William James Rogers, IV honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL William Rogers was deployed to Vietnam on 5 August 1968 as an Anti-tank Assaultman / LCPL William Rogers was Killed In Action on 26 March 1969 from an enemy explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 26 March 1969, while providing security for a team of combat engineers conducting a road mine sweep, LCPL William Rogers was killed by a hostile explosive device that was detonated

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Rogers was born in Fort Lee, Virginia / William James Rogers, IV was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

William James Rogers, IV is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 28w, Line 52



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

An Anti-tank Assaultman was a front-line military job that supported ground infantry and tasked with tankbusting and breaching / In the past, Marine Corps Infantry Assault had been referred to as “grunts” for their hard, grueling work in combat / Assaultman were responsible for anti-armor operations and tactical vehicle operations / These servicemembers provided medium and heavy anti-armor fire in support of the infantry battalion

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed “Geronimo”, it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisen-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June 1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROHRING**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

KEVIN

M.

Address: 2078 PARKER BOULEVARD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private Kevin Michael Rohring honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Kevin Rohring was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PVT Kevin Rohring was Killed In Action on 27 March 1967 from an explosive device during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

During the month of March 1969, the 1st Battalion participated in several operations in the Quang Tin and Qunag Ngai Provinces of Vietnam / On 27 March 1967, while conducting search and clear operations 6 kilometers east of Tam Ky in the vicinity of the Phu Yen village complex, a booby trapped buried 250lb bomb was tipped causing a massive explosion / Two Marines were killed instantly, one was wounded severely and would later died after being evacuated / PVT Kevin Rohring was one of the casualties, killed by the fragmentation wounds he sustained from the hostile explosive device

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kevin Rohring attended Sweet Home Central High School / Rohring worked at the International House of Pancakes before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 23 February 1966 in Buffalo / Kevin Michael Rohring was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Kevin Michael Rohring is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 17e, Line 59

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisen-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June 1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROSS, JR.**
GEORGE B.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: AMHERST

Address: 6 LYMAN ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class George Bacon Ross, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 George Ross was deployed to Vietnam on 16 June 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 George Ross, Jr. was Killed In Action on 20 March 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations around Truong Son, 17 km N of LZ (landing zone) English, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

SP4 George Ross was a member of the Army's Special Forces but transferred to the 1st Cavalry Division when he volunteered for Vietnam duty / SP4 Ross was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for Merit

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George Ross attended Amherst Central High School and graduated from George Junior Republic, a private school in Freeville, New York / Ross attended Paul Smiths College of Arts and Sciences in Franklin County before enlisting in the U.S. Army in October 1965 / George Bacon Ross, Jr. was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

George Bacon Ross, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 16e, Line 126

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for 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

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROZELL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

EDWARD

A.

Address: 79 FLOHR AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS.

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

A COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE
AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Edward Arnold Rozell honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Edward Rozell was deployed to Vietnam on 30 September 1969 as a Rifleman / LCPL Edward Rozell was Killed in Action on 31 January 1970 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during a battle with Viet Cong forces near Da Nang, in the province of Quang Nam, South Vietnam

LCPL Edward Arnold Rozell served with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force / Alpha Company was on a combat mission 6 kilometers south southeast of the Tuy Loan Bridge when the company encountered NVA hostile forces / Edward died as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds to the body when an enemy mine detonated near the Tuy Loan Bridge

Base Assignments:

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Edward Rozell attended West Seneca High School prior to enlisting in the Marine Corp in January 1969 / Edward Arnold Rozell was 18 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at St Mathews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Edward Arnold Rozell is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14w, Line 87

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / They returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

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During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command / It consisted of both the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) / By the end of 1966, the two Marine divisions of III MAF were fighting two separate wars. In the north, the 3d Marine Division fought a more or less conventional campaign while the 1st Marine Division took over the counter-guerrilla operations in the populous south / the III Marine Amphibious



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Forces participated in the Vietnam War from May 1965 through April 1971 operating from Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ROZO**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

JAMES

M.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: POW/MIA

Unit / Squadron:

UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM USARV, 595TH SIGNAL COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private James Milan Rozo honorably served in the United States Army / PVT James Rozo was deployed to Vietnam on 27 May 1969 as a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator / PVT James Rozo was reported Missing In Action on 23 June 1970 when the military vehicle he was riding in was ambushed and Rozo and two other soldiers were captured by enemy forces in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam / James Rozo was promoted to Sergeant First-Class while in POW/MIA status

At about 0830 hours on 23 June 1970, the 595th Signal Company's supply sergeant, SFC Joe P. Pederson, departed Dian in a GMC 2-1/2 ton truck for a supply run to the 595th's outlying stations at Lai Khe and Phuoc Vinh in Binh Doung Province / SFC Pederson was accompanied by SP4 James M. Rozo and PVT Robert P. Phillips / They arrived in Lai Khe at about 1000 and departed at about 1100 enroute Phuoc Vinh / At 1530 the truck was found in a roadside ditch, both windscreens shattered by gunfire and the left front tire flat / Expended M-16 shell casings were found around the truck, but there was no sign of Pederson, Rozo, or Phillips / Ground and air searches located one dead Viet Cong, killed by a .45 caliber bullet (Pederson had carried a .45 sidearm), and three jammed M-16 rifles which proved to be those checked out by Pederson and his men / The searchers did not locate the missing men, who were then formally placed in MIA status / In September 1970 a VC defector claimed to be one of four VCs who ambushed the truck and captured the three men / The defector claimed that one of the Americans, a noncommissioned officer, died shortly after being captured and was buried not too far from the point of capture / The other two, he said, had been interrogated locally before being marched off in



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

the direction of Cambodia / In November 1971, a captured VC soldier reported seeing two Americans being evacuated to Cambodia; his descriptions fit Rozo and Phillips / As a result of these two debriefings SP4 Rozo and PVT Phillips were reclassified as prisoners of war while SFC Pederson was continued as Missing in Action / On 27 January 1973, the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), better known as the Viet Cong, released a list containing the names of American POWs whom the VC said died in captivity, but none of the three were on that list nor were Pederson, Rozo, or Phillips among the POWs released in February/March 1973 / Over time the Secretary of the Army approved Presumptive Findings of death for the three men, Pederson on 01 Sep 1978, Phillips on 13 Feb 1979, and Rozo on 18 May 1979 / Their remains have not been repatriated

After the incident, the U.S. Army posthumously promoted SP4 Rozo to the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC) / Sergeant First-Class Rozo is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific / His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

SFC James Rozo served two tours in Vietnam

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:

James Rozo attended Warren G Harding School and Kenmore Junior High School / Rozo quit high school in the eleventh grade and enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1968 / James Milan Rozo was 21 years old when he went missing and is memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

James Milan Rozo is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 86

A Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator supervises, installs, operates and performs maintenance checks and services on manual or automated tactical multichannel communications equipment / Assign duties, coordinates and supervises activities of assigned personnel to include resolution of problems in communications



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

operations in employment of Wire and Cable Systems; Switchboard Systems Radio Teletype Communications; Radio Relay Communications; Tactical Satellite Communications; Multichannel and Microwave Communications; Issues communications-electronics operating instructions (CEOI) and plans frequency / The operator also maintains communications situation maps, overlays and presents briefings on same; determines capabilities and limitations of assigned equipment; profiles line-on-sight radio transmission paths and tropospheric scatter radio transmission paths allocation and management; plans and prepares communications systems diagrams; supervises the displacement of manual and automated communications systems equipment and switching centers

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 595th Signal Company was activated on 20 June 1945 in the Army of the United States as the 595th Joint Assault Signal Company at Fort Jackson, South Carolina / The unit was sent to Europe, arriving in Germany on 5 September 1952 and redesignated as the 595th Signal Company on 15 June 1954 / The 595th Signal Company was deployed to Vietnam in April 1966 and attached to the 69th Signal Battalion

The Prisoner of War Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on 8 November 1985 / The United States Code citation for the POW Medal statute is 10 U.S.C. § 1128 / The Prisoner of War Medal may be awarded to any person who was a prisoner of war after 5 April 1917 (the date of the United States' entry into World War I was April 6) / It is awarded to any person who was taken prisoner or held captive while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing Armed Force; or while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing Armed Force in which the United States is not a belligerent party / As of an amendment to Title 10 of the United States Code in 2013, the medal is also awarded for captivity under circumstances "which the Secretary concerned finds were comparable to those circumstances under which persons have generally been held captive by enemy armed forces during periods of armed conflict" / The person's conduct, while in captivity, must have been honorable / This medal may be awarded posthumously to the surviving next of kin of the recipient

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: RUBINS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: SNYDER

JOHN

C.

Address: 161 BERNHARDT DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MAJ

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MACV, ADVISORY TEAM 54

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Major John Charles Rubins honorably served in the United States Army / Major John Rubins was deployed to Vietnam on 14 September 1967 as an Operations & Training Staff Officer / MAJ John Rubins was Killed In Action 14 November 1967 from fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam

On 14 November 1967, MAJ John Rubins departed his base camp in Kien Giang Province, RVN, to search for an overdue convoy when the jeep he was traveling was ambushed by a hostile force / Rubins was fatally wounded in the ensuing firefight

Major John Rubins was attached to Advisory Team #54 in Vietnam and was subsection advisor in the Pacification Program in Mekong Delta

Major John Rubins served in the U.S. Army for 14 years / MAJ Rubins served in Germany before being assigned to South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In 1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Miscellaneous:

John Rubins was a graduate of Amherst High School / Rubins graduated from Niagara University, where he was enrolled in the ROTC / John Charles Rubins was 39 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

John Charles Rubins is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29e, Line 97

U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was a joint-service command of the United States Department of Defense / MACV was created on 8 February 1962, in response to the increase in United States military assistance to South Vietnam / MACV was first implemented to assist the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) Vietnam, controlling every advisory and assistance effort in Vietnam, but was reorganized on 15 May 1964 and absorbed MAAG Vietnam to its command when combat unit deployment became too large for advisory group control / In April 1966, all Army communications-electronics resources in South Vietnam were combined in a single formation, the 1st Signal Brigade which supported the combat signal battalions of the divisions and field forces in each corps area

The 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SADLER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

RONALD

F.

Address: 372 ELLICOTT CREEK ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 501ST INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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:

Private First-Class Ronald Francis Sadler honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Ronald Sadler was deployed to Vietnam on 14 December 1967 as a Communications Center Specialist / PFC Ronald Sadler was Killed In Action on 24 March 1968 from wounds suffered when hit by enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Thua Thien province, South Vietnam

Hue, the ancient imperial capital of Vietnam, was a primary objective for the enemy in the Tet Offensive / Much of the city had been occupied by the VC at the end of January and it had taken three weeks of vicious fighting before the city had been cleared, but VC and NVA forces still were abundant in the surrounding countryside / In the third week of March 1968 the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry was conducting sweeps west of Hue in an effort to locate and destroy VC/NVA units / The battalion lost 25 men during a series of engagements between 21 and 26 March 1968 / PFC Ronald Sadler was killed on 24 March 1968 during engagement with enemy forces

Base Assignments:

Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky–Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Sadler was a graduate of Tonawanda Senior High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army on 29 September 1966 / Ronald Francis Sadler was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York

Ronald Francis Sadler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 46e, Line 12

Communications Center Specialist supervises teletypewriter, crypto material, and message handling activities; assigns personnel to duties; observes and corrects faulty work procedures; assures observance of proper security measures; checks controls to assure proper recording of information; takes action on service messages; performs administrative functions such as establishment of records, supply requisitions, changes in procedures, and rotation of personnel to assure adequate coverage message handling and related activities; prepares routine and special reports on communications center and crypto material section operations; evaluates proficiency of subordinate personnel; assists in disposition of classified material; insures that all changes to crypto documents are properly inserted and that subordinates personnel have properly interpreted such changes

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 501st Infantry Regiment, previously the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment and 501st Airborne Infantry Regiment, is an airborne forces regiment of the United States Army with a long history, having served in World War II and the Vietnam War, both as part of the 101st Airborne Division, as well as the War in Afghanistan / It is the first airborne unit by designation in the United States Armed Forces / When the 101st deployed to South Vietnam in 1967, it included the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 501st / The division participated in twelve campaigns and was decorated by the Republic of Vietnam on three occasions / The 2nd Battalion, 501st, while attached to the 3rd Brigade, 101st received a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969 / The 2nd Battalion, 501st participated in Operation Texas Star, which culminated in the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord in July 1970 / The entire 101st participated in Operation Dewey Canyon II, in support of the ARVN attack on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos in February–March 1971 / As part of the post-Vietnam reorganization, the 2nd Bn, 501st Infantry was inactivated on 31 July 1972

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCHULTZ**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LANCASTER

ROBERT

C.

Address: 296 LAKE AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 27TH INFANTRY, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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:

Sergeant Robert Charles Schultz honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Robert Schultz was deployed to Vietnam on 5 April 1967 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / SGT Robert Schultz was Killed In Action on 12 February 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

On 12 February 1968, elements of the 27th Infantry engaged an enemy force 5 kilometers northeast of Hoc Mon in Gia Dinh Province / The battle lasted throughout the day, with four men being killed in action and many more wounded / One of the casualties was SGT Robert Schulz who was killed in action by hostile rifle fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Schultz was a 1964 graduate of Lancaster Central High School / Schultz attended Erie County Technical Institute before enlisting in the U.S. Army in October 1966 / Robert Charles Schultz was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lancaster Rural Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Robert Charles Schultz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 39e, Line 12



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The 25th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Tropic Lightning") is a United States Army division based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii / The division, which was activated on 1 October 1941 in Hawaii, conducts military operations primarily in the Asia-Pacific region / When the Korean War began in June 1950, the division was deployed to South Korea, where it fought in the defense of and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, with elements advancing as far as the Amnok River in November 1950 / The division defended Seoul against Chinese Communist attack from May 1953 to the July armistice, returning to Hawaii in late 1954 / After undergoing major reorganizations in 1957 and 1963 to adapt to changing tactics, the division deployed to South Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War between late 1965 and early 1966 / The 25th served in Vietnam until its withdrawal back to Hawaii in 1970–1971, participating in Operation Attleboro, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Junction City, the Battle of Saigon during the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, and the Cambodian Incursion / It was reorganized as a light infantry division in 1985, and elements have participated in the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan / Its present deployment is composed of light infantry and aviation units / Tropic Lightning soldiers regularly train with other U.S. military branches to practice and maintain joint operations capabilities

The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment, entered the Vietnam War in January, 1966 / During their five-year stay in Vietnam, the unit earned two valorous unit citations, and was one of the last 25th Infantry Division units to return home / The regiment participated in Operation Junction City and fought during the Tet Offensive and the May Offensive / The regiment finally returned to Hawaii in April, 1971 / More recently the regiment deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SCOTT**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DENNIS

L.

Address: 465 FOURTH STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, M COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Dennis Lee Scott honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Dennis Scott was deployed to Vietnam in March 1967 as a Rifleman / LCPL Dennis Lee was Killed In Action on 27 December 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Than Tham Khe, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During Operation Badger Tooth, the battalion was operating in the vicinity of Thon Tham Khe, on the coast, 13 kilometers north northeast of Hai Lang / The Marines were engaged by a large hostile force and LCPL Dennis Lee died as a result of gunshot wounds to the body from hostile rifle fire / The Marines had 49 men killed during the firefight

LCPL Dennis Scott arrived in Vietnam in March 1967 and was hit by shell fragments in September, hospitalized, and returned to duty in October 1967 / Lee was hit in the same leg in October 1967, but returned to duty

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dennis Scott was a graduate of School #1 and McKinley Vocational High School / Scott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1966 / Dennis Lee Scott was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Dennis Lee Scott is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32e, Line 82

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) was a United States Marine Corps unit / Following the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in August 1964, the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was activated / It consisted of 9th Marine Regiment regimental headquarters and three battalion landing teams (BLT) / Almost 6,000 men were transformed into an effective force in readiness / The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was deactivated on 6 May 1965 and reactivated on 1 March 1966 as 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) on Okinawa, Japan and landed in Vietnam on 8 March 1965 / the 9th MAB participated in Operation Osage in South Vietnam between 27 April and 3 May 1966 / The 9th MAB was assigned to the mission of destroying a VC battalion and elements of a People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) regiment reported to be operating in Thừa Thiên-Huế Province / The 9th MAB provided Battalion Landing Team (BLT) of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines for Operation Deckhouse IV from 15–18 September 1966 / The 9th MAB's Marines killed over 200 PAVN soldiers from 90th Regiment with the loss of 36 Marines / During the rest of the year, the 9th MAB and its units were stationed off the northern coast of South Vietnam in order to provide force for the defense of Vietnam Demilitarized Zone in case of emergency / The 9th MAB launched the Operation Deckhouse VI on 16 February 1967 in order to disrupt enemy movement in the vicinity of Sa Huynh salt flats, search northward in the Nui Dat area, and, finally, link up with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, then operating around Nui Dat in Operation Desoto / The 9th MAB took part in the Operation Beaver Cage between 28 April and 13 May 1967 and Operation Dewey Canyon / In 1969, it was announced that the regiment would be part of the 25,000 man withdrawal from Vietnam, ending more than four years of combat actions in Vietnam for the 9th Marines

3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (3/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed the "Thundering Third", the battalion consists of approximately 1,220 Marines and Sailors and falls under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines was activated on 1 March 1941 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and assigned to the 1st Marine Division / From January 1966 to May 1971, the battalion fought in the Vietnam War, operating from Chu Lai, Da Nang, Thang Binh, Thanh Thuy, Cua Việt, Ca Lu, Vandegrift Combat Base, Route 9, An Hoa, and Hoa Vang / In May 1971, they re-located to MCB Camp Pendleton, California

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Lance Corporal Dennis Lee Scott was also awarded the:

The NYS Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SCRITCHFIELD

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DAVID

A.

Address: 11 ARNOLD STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal David Allen Scritchfield honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL David Scritchfield was deployed to Vietnam in July 1967 as a Mortarman / LCPL David Scritchfield was Killed In Action on 11 September 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

During the month of September 1967, the Battalion was conducting assigned combat operations in the vicinity of Da Nang in Quang Nam Province / On 11 September 1967, a sniper fired on a security team while communications wire was being installed along Highway 1 near the Thanh Quit river in Dien Ban District / LCPL David Scritchfield was hit and killed by the hostile sniper fire

Before being deployed to Vietnam, LCPL Scritchfield was stationed in Guantanamo, Cuba for six months

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Scritchfield was born in Virginia and moved to Buffalo / Scritchfield attended School 52 and Lafayette High School before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 5 January 1966 / David Allen Scritchfield was 18 years old



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

David Allen Scritchfield is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 57

A Mortarman is a soldier who operates a firing device called a mortar / Mortarmen in the U.S. Marines are the unit that's mainly responsible for the tactical employment of the 60 mm light mortar and the 81 mm medium mortar

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operation

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SERWINOWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RICHARD

E.

Address: 1610 MAIN STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Richard Earl Serwinowski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Richard Serwinowski was deployed to Vietnam in November 1966 as a Supply Administrative Man / CPL Richard Serwinowski was Killed In Action on 6 September 1967 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Vinh Huy, 12km SW of Thang Binh, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Serwinowski was a graduate of St. Joseph's Cathedral Elementary School / Serwinowski attended Bishop Fallon High School and graduated from Lafayette High School before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1966 / Richard Earl Serwinowski was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Richard Earl Serwinowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 17

A Supply Administrative Man handles technical duties related to supply management, ensuring that essential



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

materials are available when needed / Their responsibilities include stock control, inventory management, and handling excess or surplus items / Other duties include authorizing stock items and categories for stocked and nonstocked items and establishing the criteria for consumable secondary items

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisen-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June 1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses

The NYS Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHATTUCK

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

RONALD

L.

Address: 217 HARTWELL ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

II FIELD FORCE, 2ND BATTALION, 13TH ARTILLERY, B BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Ronald Lawrence Shattuck honorably served in the United States Army /SGT Ronald Shattuck was deployed to Vietnam on 10 February 1968 as a Field Artillery Crewman / SGT Ronald Shattuck was Killed In Action on 30 December 1968 from wounds suffered from enemy mortar fire in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

"B" Battery was involved in direct fire support missions for the 25th Infantry Division in December 68 - January 69 / The battery was positioned at Fire Support Base Bragg II in Tay Ninh Province, and was within eyesight of Nui Ba Din, the Black Virgin Mountain / Anytime Nui Ba Din was in view of a Fire Support Base, bad events seemed to occur / Daily attacks from snipers, mortars, and .51 caliber machine guns were common / Sergeant Ron Shattuck started his tour with the Red Dragon Clan in February 1968, and was a short timer in December 1968 / Rocket and mortar fire hit FSB Bragg II on December 30, 1968 / SGT Ronald Shattuck died from wounds suffered in the mortar attack

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Shattuck attended Frontier Central School / Shattuck enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1967 after working as a service station attendant / Ronald Lawrence Shattuck was 22 years old at the time of his passing



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Ronald Lawrence Shattuck is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 35w, Line 10

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The 13th Field Artillery was constituted 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army at Camp Stewart, Texas / 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery Battalion was organized in 1965 at Fort Sill OK and deployed to Vietnam under the II Field Force 23rd Artillery group

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SHOEMAKER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DONALD

E.

Address: 48 SEYMOUR STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1962

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Donald Elton Shoemaker honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Donald Shoemaker was deployed to Vietnam in January 1967 as a Rifleman / PFC Donald Shoemaker was Killed In Action on 22 January 1967 from an enemy explosive device in Quang Tin province, South Vietnam

During the night of 22 January 1967, small arms fire and grenade explosions were heard in the vicinity of a two man LP (Listening Post) that was located near the Company CP (Command Post) on Hill 10 near the Tien Dao village complex in Binh Son District / By daylight, when the men assigned to the LP did not return to the CP, a patrol was sent out to their position / The patrol found both their comrades, had been killed in action by fragmentation wounds from hostile grenades during the night / One of the casualties was, PFC Donald Shoemaker

LCPL Donald Shoemaker was in the U.S. Marine Corps for 5 years / Prior to being deployed to Vietnam, Shoemaker was stationed in Japan and the Caribbean

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Donald Shoemaker attended School 40 and 44 and the Boy's Vocational High School / Shoemaker worked for the Colad Company and for a meat packing concern before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 17 years old / Donald Elton Shoemaker was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, New York

Donald Elton Shoemaker is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 14e, Line 68

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

The 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines (2/7) is a light infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / They are based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and consist of approximately 800 marines and sailors / The battalion falls under the command of the 7th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the 2/7 participated in the Battles of Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa / During the Korean War, The Battalion participated in the Inchon Landing and the recapture of Seoul / 2/7 was deployed to Vietnam from July 1965 until October 1970 as part of the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division / The battalion operated in the southern half of I Corp most of the time, Qui Nhon, Chu Lai, Da Nang Air Base, Dai Loc and An Hoa / The 2/7 were instrumental players in Operation Utah and Operation Harvest Moon

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SIMMONS, JR.
ELLIOTT**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 486 EAST UTICA STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, K COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Elliott Simmons, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Elliott Simmons was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / CPL Elliott Simmons was Killed In Action on 7 August 1966 from an enemy explosive device during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Upon arriving in Vietnam, CPL Elliott was assigned to 1st Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division / Kilo Company was a night defensive position near Cau Ha, 8 kilometers north northeast of Dien Ban, when at approximately 0545hrs, a grenade was thrown into the fox hole of CPL Elliott and another Marine / Both Marines died as a result of shrapnel to the body

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Elliott Simmons enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1963 / Elliott Simmons, Jr. was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Elliott Simmons, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09e, Line 109



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (3/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed the "Thundering Third", the battalion consists of approximately 1,220 Marines and Sailors and falls under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines was activated on 1 March 1941 at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and assigned to the 1st Marine Division / From January 1966 to May 1971, the battalion fought in the Vietnam War, operating from Chu Lai, Da Nang, Thang Binh, Thanh Thuy, Cua Việt, Ca Lu, Vandegrift Combat Base, Route 9, An Hoa, and Hoa Vang / In May 1971, they re-located to MCB Camp Pendleton, California

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SIRIANNI

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

DANIEL

E.

Address: 343 FARGO AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, 2ND CIVIL AFFAIRS GROUP, CAP E 1

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Daniel Edward Sirianni honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Daniel Sirianni was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1967 as a Self-Propelled Artillery Repairer-Technician / LCPL Daniel Sirianni was Killed In Action on 8 February 1968 from enemy small arms fire in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

LCPL Daniel Sirianni was killed volunteering to help his fellow Marines pinned down by enemy fire on 8 February 1968 on Lo Giang hamlet

There was heavy enemy activity in the vicinity of Danang Air Base during the first days of the Tet Offensive at the end of January 1968, continuing into early February / Combined Action Company ECHO, part of the 2nd CA Group, had small units in place in several villages covering the southern approaches to Danang / One of those units, CAP ECHO 4, was in Lo Giang hamlet, just south of the Cam Le Bridge over the Cau Do River / Early on 08 Feb 1968, ECHO 4 was taken under attack by a mixed NVA/VC force seemingly intent on attacking the Danang Air Base / ECHO 4 was unfortunate enough to be in the path of a regimental-size unit / While part of the NVA/VC force laid siege to ECHO 4 the bulk of the force moved north to and forded the Cau Do River east of the Cam Le Bridge / A second Combined Action unit, CAP ECHO 3, was in place on the northern side on the river; it too was directly in the NVA/VC regiment's path / Fortunately for ECHO 3, the delay at ECHO 4 caused the NVA/VC to reach the river after sunrise, allowing a pair of A-1 Skyraiders the opportunity to disrupt the attack



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

and force the enemy to disperse / Meanwhile, ECHO 4 was getting desperate, they were running out of ammunition, supplementing their limited supplies with AK-47s and ammunition from dead NVA/VC soldiers / The ECHO Company Commander, Captain Howard L. Joselane, had directed formation of a relief force drawn from his other platoons / A 17-man force, led by Captain Joselane, departed ECHO Company headquarters at Hoa Vang by truck, crossed the Cam Le Bridge, and started on foot up the dirt road toward the ECHO 4 compound / As the relief force approached a tree line surrounding Lo Giang hamlet, it came nose-to-nose with 250-300 NVA/VC troops, a situation with only one possible outcome / Captain Joselane and his Marines fought valiantly, but they were hopelessly out-numbered and out-gunned / Captain Joselane's last radio reports to the ECHO headquarters at Hoa Vang were "... we're getting chewed up ... we're not going to get out ... there are too many ... they're all over us ... no way out ... Don't send anyone else in here ... Tell my wife I love her..." / Fading daylight, uncertainty with respect to the exact location of the relief force, and limited manpower caused the 2nd CA Group headquarters to decide against sending in further forces before sunrise on the 9th / One survivor of the ambush made his way back to Hoa Vang / When the second reaction force went in, they found one badly wounded survivor, twelve dead, and three missing / One of the missing Marines returned to friendly control; he had been captured but was able to escape his captors during the chaos of the fighting / The other two were gone / The final disposition of the 17 men who had set out to relieve ECHO 4 follows: 12 Marines were killed including LCPL Daniel Sirianni; 2 Marines were captured and died in captivity; 1 Marine was captured but escaped and 2 Marines were wounded but survived the ambush

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Sirianni graduated from Grover Cleveland High School and immediately enlisted in the Marines on 31 May 1966, at a recruiting office in Buffalo / Daniel Edward Sirianni was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel Edward Sirianni is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 38e, Line 39

Marines Corps Self-Propelled Artillery Repairer/Technicians inspects, maintains and repairs self-propelled artillery, such as howitzers, mortar systems, rocket artillery, multiple rocket launchers

The III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) is a formation of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of the United States Marine Corps / It was established as I Marine Amphibious Corps on October 1, 1942, and was renamed III Amphibious Corps on April 15, 1944 / The III MAF has contributed to noteworthy military campaigns, such as the Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World War II / During the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) was a reinforced corps comprising two divisions, an air wing, and a division-sized logistics command

2nd Civil Affairs Group (2nd CAG) is a civil affairs (CA) unit of the United States Marine Corps / It is based at Naval Support Facility Anacostia, Washington, D.C., and is part of the Force Headquarters Group of the Marine Forces Reserve / 2nd CAG is commanded by a Colonel and the unit has 38 Marine officers, 85 Marine enlisted, four Navy officers and one Navy enlisted / The unit consists of one headquarters detachment and four line



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

detachments / The primary tactical function of civil affairs is to support Marines and sailors by interacting and working with the local governments and populations which they deploy to / Civil affairs is important because it gives the Marine Corps a chance to develop and maintain a good rapport in allied and partner countries, reducing terrorist opportunities by winning peoples' hearts and minds, thus contributing to regional stability

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SISLEY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ANGOLA

WILLIAM

S.

Address: 8801 ERIE ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 502ND INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William Edward Sisley honorably served in the United States Army PFC William Sisley was deployed to Vietnam on 18 May 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC William Sisley was Killed In Action on 8 July 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 08 July 1969, the 3rd Platoon, A Company 1/502nd Infantry, was conducting a sweep in a valley near the hamlet of Ma Cau, just north of the only slightly larger village of Hau Duc / The point squad was ambushed by North Vietnamese soldiers and the following squad moved up to help, but there were sufficient NVA forces to cut off both squads from the remainder of the platoon / The last radio contact with the encircled US force was at 1445 (2:45 pm) on 08 July / Air and artillery fires were used to cordon off the last known US position while reinforcements were moved in, but nightfall precluded a movement to contact / At first light on 09 July elements of 1/502 moved forward and by 0900 had made contact with the surviving US soldiers / Eleven Americans died as a result of the ambush, including PFC William Sisley

PFC William Sisley was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 July 1969 / Private Sisley distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in the Third Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, during a combat operation in Tien Phuoc Province, Republic of Vietnam / Private Sisley was providing rear security when the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



Third Platoon was ambushed by North Vietnamese soldiers / Being surrounded, the Third Platoon was cut off and pinned down / Private Sisley remained behind and cut off all attempts by the advancing enemy soldiers to infiltrate the hasty perimeter / Remaining unassisted to protect the vulnerable rear, Private Sisley was wounded by two North Vietnamese soldiers / Undaunted, he continued to deliver effective fire on the converging enemy and drove them off / As the battle wore on, PFC Sisley repeatedly repulsed each renewed attack / Finally, running low on ammunition, PFC William Sisley was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Sisley attended Hutchinson Technical High School and graduated from the State University of Buffalo in 1968 / William Edward Sisley was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Avenue Cemetery, Angola, New York

William Edward Sisley is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 21w, Line 86

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 502nd Infantry Regiment (502nd IR), previously titled the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (502nd PIR), is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment was established shortly after U.S. entry into World War II, and was assigned as a regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / "The Screaming Eagles", one of the most decorated formations of the U.S. Army / The regiment saw substantial action in the European Theater of World War II and was inactivated in 1945, shortly after the end of the war / Reactivating in a new form in 1956, the 502nd Infantry has served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq / The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was deployed to South Vietnam in April 1965 and left Vietnam in December 1971 / Since 1974, the regiment has been classified as an Air Assault unit

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

(highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

Private First-Class William Edward Sisley was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SKOMSKI

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

JAMES

M.

Address: 76 BURDETTE DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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 James Mark Skomski honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 James Skomski was deployed to Vietnam on 22 October 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 James Skomski was Killed In Action on 8 February 1969 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

On 8 February 1969, elements of "A" Company were on a combat operation in Tay Ninh Province when they engaged the enemy in a fire fight during which SP4 James Skomski was killed by hostile rifle fire

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Skomski attended St. Ann's Parochial School and Seneca Vocational School / Skomski was employed by American Optical Company in Cheektowaga prior to entering the U.S. Army in May 1968 / James Mark Skomski was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James Mark Skomski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 33w, Line 89

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 12th Cavalry is a cavalry regiment of the United States Army / It is currently stationed at Fort Cavazos, formerly known as Fort Hood / On 2 February 1901, Congress authorized the organization of the Twelfth Regiment of Cavalry, Army of the United States / Under this authority, the regiment was formed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on 8 February 1901 / During World War II, the 2nd Battalion saw its first combat on Los Negros Island in March 1944 and also participated in the invasion of the Philippines / The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and fought the division's first engagement from 18 to 20 September 1965 as part of Operation Gibraltar / On 2 February 1968 during the Battle of Hue, the battalion was deployed from Camp Evans to PK-17 to launch an attack towards La Chu to close off the PAVN supply routes west of Hue / The battalion participated in the Cambodian Incursion and earned its 16th campaign streamer for the Sanctuary Counteroffensive / On 26 March 1971, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry stood down after five and a half years in Vietnam and returned to the United States at Fort Hood, Texas

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SMEAL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

ROBERT

Address: 34 SAWYER AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY, C TROOP

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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:

Sergeant Robert Smeal honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Robert Smeal was deployed to Vietnam on 8 August 1968 as a Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman / SGT Robert Smeal was Killed In Action on 15 March 1968 when his helicopter crashed after receiving enemy groundfire in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

The brother of Sergeant Robert Smeal, Army Technical Sergeant Leon Smeal honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Thailand

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Smeal was a Town of Tonawanda native / Robert Smeal graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army on 31 December 1966 / Robert Smeal was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Morningside Cemetery, DuBois, Pennsylvania

Robert Smeal is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44e, Line 62



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

A Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with how to fix the various systems on a helicopter including the fuel, electrical, and hydraulic system / During training, they learn how to properly disassemble and repair the engine / The Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with the repair and installation of aircraft subsystem assemblies / These assemblies can include engines, main rotor head, hydraulic pump, transmissions, gearboxes, rotors, and mechanical flight controls

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 9th Cavalry was organized on 21 September 1866 at Greenville, Louisiana / In the 1870s and the 1880s, the 9th Cavalry fought with great distinction throughout the western United States in numerous campaigns against marauding American Indians, Mexicans, and lawless settlers / The 9th participated in operations during World War II and the Korea War / On 15 September 1965, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry arrived in the Republic of Vietnam and began operations as the divisional air cavalry squadron for the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry participated in such pivotal battles as the Ia Drang Valley, Khe Sahn, Binh Dinh, and Quang Tri/ The Squadron was the first unit of the 1st Cavalry Division to capture North Vietnamese Soldiers with C Troop taking three prisoners on 30 October near Pleiku / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry remained in Vietnam until 28 June 1971 / It is estimated that the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was responsible for 50 percent of all enemy Soldiers killed by the 1st Cavalry Division during the war / It was for this reason that the Squadron earned the nickname "The Headhunters" / Three Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SMITH

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

J.

Address: 77 EDSON STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 502ND INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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:

Corporal Robert Jeremiah Smith honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Robert Smith was deployed to Vietnam on 11 April 1967 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / CPL Robert Smith was Killed In Action on 29 September 1967 as a result of enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

On 29 September 1967 elements of 2nd Bn, 327th Infantry and 2nd Bn, 502nd Infantry encircled an NVA unit at Hiep Duc City in Quang Tin Province / Fifteen US soldiers were killed in the ensuing fight, including CPL Robert Smith

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Smith was a graduate of St. Brigid's School and a 1966 graduate of West Seneca High School / Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 / Robert Jeremiah Smith was 20 years old at the time of his passing and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Robert Jeremiah Smith is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 32

An Indirect Fire Infantryman works as a member of a platoon or a mortar squad / Among their responsibilities include participating in various combat operations, setting up and firing different types of mortars, locating and recovering mines, cleaning and organizing weapons and other supplies, and overseeing members

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 502nd Infantry Regiment (502nd IR), previously titled the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (502nd PIR), is an infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment was established shortly after U.S. entry into World War II, and was assigned as a regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / "The Screaming Eagles", one of the most decorated formations of the U.S. Army / The regiment saw substantial action in the European Theater of World War II and was inactivated in 1945, shortly after the end of the war / Reactivating in a new form in 1956, the 502nd Infantry has served in the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, War in Afghanistan, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq / The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was deployed to South Vietnam in April 1965 and left Vietnam in December 1971 / Since 1974, the regiment has been classified as an Air Assault unit

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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 Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SMOLAREK, JR.**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

EDWIN J.

Address: 40 ENGLEWOOD AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Edwin Joseph Smolarek, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Edwin Smolarek was deployed to Vietnam on 7 January 1969 as a Rifleman / CPL Edwin Smolarek was Killed In Action on 18 August 1969 from wounds suffered when an enemy device exploded during combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

The 1st Battalion was participating in Operation Mighty Play and Delta Company was on a patrol when a hostile booby-trapped 81MM round was detonated 5 kilometers north northeast of Dien Ban / CPL Edwin Smolarek was wounded 14 July 1969 by fragmentation and was med-evac to the rear / Due to the severity of the wounds, CPL Smolarek was sent to the US Naval Hospital in Guam for further medical treatment, where he died of his wounds 18 August 1969

CPL Smolarek served his country for 3 years, serving 2 years of sea duty off the coast of Vietnam before beginning his tour as an Infantryman

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Miscellaneous:

Edwin Smolarek was born in West Milwaukee, Wisconsin / Edwin Smolarek was a graduate of Bennett High School and attended Erie County Technical Institute / Smolarek enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966 / Edwin Joseph Smolarek, Jr. was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Edwin Joseph Smolarek, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19w, Line 63

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 26th Marine Regiment (26th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The 26th Marines were activated in 1944 and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and were activated again on 1 March 1966, and fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War / On 1 March 1966 the 26th Marine Regiment was activated at Camp Pendleton initiating the formation of the 5th Marine Division / The regimental headquarters arrived in South Vietnam on 26 April 1967 / In mid-May 1967, following the conclusion of The Hill Fights, the 26th Marines took over responsibility for the area around Khe Sanh from the 3rd Marines as Operation Crockett / The 26th Marines conducted Operation Ardmore a search and destroy mission in the Khe Sanh area from 17 July-31 October 1967 / At the conclusion of Operation Ardmore the Marines commenced Operation Scotland, the defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base and search and destroy missions against People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration / From 21 January 1968 the 26th Marines were under siege at Khe Sanh until the conclusion of Operation Pegasus on 14 April 1968 and were replaced by the 1st Marines on 15 April 1968 / From 11 to 19 March 1970 the regiment redeployed from South Vietnam and was inactivated / The 26th Marines were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Khe Sanh as were the Seabees that supported them



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SNOW, JR.
MILTON

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: EAST AURORA

Address: PORTERVILLE ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, 84TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 937TH ENGINEER GROUP, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Milton Snow, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Milton Snow was deployed to Vietnam 12 March 1967 as a Carpentry & Masonry Specialist / PFC Milton Snow was on guard duty on 11 October 1967 when he was killed from an accidental shooting in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

PFC Milton Snow, Jr. died as a result of gunshot wounds suffered when he was mistaken for the enemy as he tried to get through a wire barrier 11 October 1967

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri - Fort Leonard Wood is a U.S. Army training installation located in the Missouri Ozarks / The post was created in December 1940 and named in honor of Major General Leonard Wood, a distinguished American Soldier who served for 40 years (later became Military Chief of Staff) / Originally intended to train infantry troops, in 1941 it became an engineer training post with the creation of the Engineer Replacement Training Center / During World War II Italian and German POWs were interned at the fort / In



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

1984, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, most of the U.S. Army Engineer School's operations were consolidated at Fort Leonard Wood / Before that, officer training was conducted at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Miscellaneous:

Milton Snow had attended Iroquois Central High School / Snow entered the U.S. Army in August 1966 / Milton Snow earned his High School diploma while in the Army / Milton Snow, Jr. was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Maple Rest Cemetery, Marilla, New York

Milton Snow, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 91

A Carpentry and Masonry Specialist, uses the skills needed to handle a variety of carpentry and masonry duties, building important structures for the Army using hand and power tools, lumber, concrete, stones, and bricks / The Specialist also help combat engineers build structures to respond to rough terrain and environmental hazards

The 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) is an engineer brigade of the United States Army / It is currently a subordinate unit of 21st Sustainment Command (Theater) and is headquartered at Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany / Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade provide various supportive duties to other Army units, including construction, engineering, and mechanical work on other Army projects / The brigade served in Europe during World War II, a fact which was included on its Distinctive Unit Insignia when the 20th Engineer Brigade received one on 10 February 1966 / The four corners of the crenelated square allude to their four campaigns in World War II, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe / The 18th Engineer Brigade later deployed to Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, where its battalions saw six years of combat service and supported fourteen campaigns, building infrastructure for both military and civilian projects / The brigade participated in a massive number of road construction projects and airfield constructions, supporting numerous infantry units and operating all over Vietnam / After serving in Vietnam, the brigade became attached to Seventh United States Army / It has since undertaken and completed numerous projects in support of US Army, Europe, and participated in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPAULDING**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JACK

D.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LT COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

LEGION OF MERIT MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Jack Douglas Spaulding honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LT COL Jack Spaulding was deployed to Vietnam as an Infantry Officer / LT COL Jack Spaulding died on 14 October 1966 as a result of a vehicle crash in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

LT COL Jack Spaulding died aboard the U.S. Hospital ship, Repose, of injuries received in a highway vehicle collision with a Vietnamese Army truck

LT COL Spaulding served for three years as an aide de camp to Marine Corps Commandant General Wallace M. Greene, Jr.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jack Spaulding graduated from Canisius College in 1948 / Jack Douglas Spaulding was 42 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Jack Douglas Spaulding is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 75

Infantry Unit Commanders lead and control the Infantry and combined armed forces during land operations / Other duties include coordinating employment of Infantry Soldiers at all levels of command, including multinational operations / Developing infantry doctrine, organizations, and equipment unique to these operations

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Horno on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / Nicknamed "The Professionals," the battalion consists of approximately 1,200 Marines and Sailors / Normally they fall under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was activated 1 August 1922, at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade / The battalion played a role in the occupation of the Dominican Republic, after which it was deactivated on 20 July 1924 / The battalion was reactivated 1 March 1941, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division of the Fleet Marine Force / The unit was again deactivated on 14 June 1941 / The unit was reactivated 11 February 1942, and assigned to the 1st Marine Division, which deployed in July 1942 to Wellington, New Zealand / The battalion participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theater of WWII, the first of these was the Guadalcanal Campaign / They later participated in the Battle of Peleliu and Battle of Okinawa / the Korean War the battalion fought at Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, the East Central Front, and the Western Front / After the war, the unit aided in the defense of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / During the Vietnam War, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was deployed to South Vietnam in November 1965 and participated in major operations and battles until May, 1971 / In June 1971, the 2/1 was relocated to Camp Pendleton, California / The mission of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Division (MARDIV) is to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repels the enemy's assault by fire and close combat / The Battalion conducts combat readiness focused training and education across all warfighting functions in preparation for employment as a ground combat element in support of operation



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Legion of Merit Medal is conferred on officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States and on nationals of other countries who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services since Sept. 8, 1939, the date of the president's proclamation of the state of emergency that led to World War II / The Legion of Merit may be awarded for combat or noncombat



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

services; in the case of American military personnel, if the award is for combat service it is shown by the wearing of a combat V device

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SPENCE, JR.**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

ALEX

A.

Address: 801 HIGHLAND AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 162ND AVIATION COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Warrant Officer 1 Alex C. Spence, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Alex Spence was deployed to Vietnam on 16 August 1969 as an Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO1 Alex Spence died on 20 June 1970 from non-hostile action, air crash on land in Kien Hoa province, South Vietnam

Warrant Officer 1 Alec Spence was piloting his helicopter, UH-1C tail number 65-09454, when his aircraft hit trees on a gun run, crashed and burned / WO1 Spence perished in the helicopter crash

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alec Spence, Jr. was born in West Virginia, but raised in Buffalo / Alec Spence was a 1965 graduate of Burgard Vocational High School and attended Erie Community College / Spence worked at J & A Machine Company and the Chevrolet Motor Division of the General Motors Corp on River Road before he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 / Alex C. Spence, Jr. was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Alex C. Spence, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 75



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Helicopter 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 Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: SROKA

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

RICHARD

M.

Address: 117 QUINCY STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1959

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

MACV, ADVISORY TEAM 88

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Captain Richard Marion Sroka honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Richard Sroka was deployed to Vietnam as a Ranger Qualified Infantry Unit Commander / CPT Richard Sroka was Killed In Action on 13 July 1964 from multiple fragmentation wounds during combat operations when his convoy was ambushed along Highway 13, Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

The President of the United States of America presented the Silver Star (posthumously) to Captain (Field Artillery) Richard Marion Sroka, United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations in Vietnam on 13 July 1964, and serving as a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion

Captain Richard M. Sroka distinguished himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations in Vietnam on 13 July 1964 while serving as a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion / Upon learning that a district headquarters in a Vietnamese city was under heavy attack by a hostile force of approximately seven hundred, Captain Sroka unhesitatingly volunteered to participate in the support effort to relieve the besieged city / Sroka bravely placed himself in a lead position to advise his Vietnamese counterparts / As the support element neared its objective, when along Highway QL-13 ("Thunder Road") in Binh Long Province about 45 miles north of Saigon, Sroka and his support troops were suddenly ambushed by an overwhelming number of enemy troops which delivered a devastating volume of intense gun fire from well prepared positions / Then, with fortitude, determination and complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Sroka exposed himself to this barrage of weapons fire while assisting in reorganizing the unit and encouraging the friendly troops to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

pursue the objective / Although subjected to the onslaught of enemy gun fire, Sroka courageously continued his advisory efforts until mortally wounded / Total friendly losses were 31 killed, including Captain Richard Sroka, 25 wounded, 19 missing, 39 weapons lost, and 18 vehicles damaged or destroyed

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant after ROTC training in college, Sroka joined the regular army when he graduated / The Army sent Sroka to Chicago, Illinois where he earned a Master's Degree in Political Science / CPT Sroka trained at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a Ranger Paratrooper and trained in Monterey, California studying the Vietnamese language

Base Assignments:

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups

Miscellaneous:

Richard Sroka attended St. John Kanty School and graduated from the Diocesan Preparatory School / Sroka graduated from St. Bonaventure University in 1959 with a degree in Journalism / Sroka was a summer reporter for the Courier Express before entering military service / Richard Marion Sroka was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Roselawn Cemetery, Pueblo, Colorado

Richard Marion Sroka is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 01e, Line 58

Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Teams were out there alone- not on base camps, air bases or at sea / Small groups of Americans often in remote areas supported only by Vietnamese forces whose capabilities and loyalty were sometimes suspect / Military Assistance Command Vietnam (Saigon) had authority over all branches of service operating in the Republic of Vietnam / US Army advisors were under the direct command of MACV and were administered independently from the United States Army Vietnam (Long Binh / Most advisory teams were comprised of approximately 35 US advisors under the local command of a senior advisor / These advisors fought alongside Vietnamese ARVN and militia units / Although they did not share in the public limelight of their USARV counterparts, their mission was an integral part of US strategy in Vietnam / MACV arrived in-country on 8 February 1962, and departed over a decade later on 29 March 1973

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STANKIEWICZ

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

KENNETH

D.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, H COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Kenneth David Stankiewicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Kenneth Stankiewicz was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Kenneth Stankiewicz was Killed In Action on 18 August 1965 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations at An Cuong 2 Namyen Hill 30, Quang Tin province, South Vietnam

Operation STARLITE began in the early morning hours of 18 August 1965 with Company H landing by helicopter in the vicinity of Hill 41, with a search and destroy mission towards the hamlets of An Cuong and Nam Yen in the Binh Son District of Quang Ngai Province / Approaching the hamlet, the Marines began receiving heavy fire from an entrenched enemy force; supporting arms and reinforcement were called in as the battle to clear the enemy from their defensive positions continued throughout the day / By the end of the day when the fire fights subsided, the Marines had cleared the enemy consolidating their positions and their casualties were evacuated / The Company had suffered many losses during the battle, and LCPL Kenneth Stankiewicz was one of the casualties, killed by hostile rifle fire

LCPL Kenneth D. Stankiewicz was presented with the Silver Star Medal posthumously for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with Company H, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, THIRD Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 August 1965 / Observing his squad leader lying wounded with a pack of explosives smoldering upon his back and fearlessly moved from his covered position to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

drag the burning explosives away from his squad leader/ Stankiewicz then continued to expose himself to increasing hostile small arms and mortar fire in order to deliver accurate fire upon the enemy positions, pinning them down and allowing the successful evacuation of his squad leaders and three other wounded men / Later that day he was mortally wounded by enemy fire while being evacuated

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Stankiewicz attended Kenmore East Senior High School, completing his high school education while in the service / Stankiewicz enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 29 August 1963 / Kenneth David Stankiewicz was 19 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Kenneth David Stankiewicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 02e, Line 61

Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / The battalion, nicknamed the Magnificent Bastards from the Vietnam War, is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and is a part of the 5th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the battalion's first assignment was to take part in the assault on Emirau Island / During the remainder of World War II, the battalion saw action in the Battles of Guam (2/4 was the first ashore) and of Okinawa / On Okinawa, the battalion was involved in the fighting for the Motobu Peninsula, the capture of Naha, and the assault on the Oruku Peninsula / In May 1965 the 2nd Battalion landed at Landing Zone (LZ) Blue (west of Green Beach) near Chu Lai / The first combined land operation of the war was Operation Lien Ket 4 between 2/4 and 3rd Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Marine Division on 28 July / The first major engagement for the battalion was Operation Starlite (the first regimental sized battle for American forces since the Korean War) in August 1965 / Beginning in 1966, combat operations measurably increased with the battalion participating in Operation Double Eagle and Operation Hastings, a coordinated Marine/Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) search and destroy mission / The 1968 Tet Offensive resulted in an increase in fighting along the DMZ / A bitter clash started 30 April 1968 and ran through 3 May 1968 between 2/4 and the PAVN 320th Division (8,000 to 10,000 soldiers) that broke out northeast of Dong Ha / To protect the base and also the 3rd Marine Division headquarters, 2/4 reinforced by B/1/3 was moved forward to seize the fortified village and area around Dai Do / The three day Battle of Dai Do was costly for both sides / The PAVN lost nearly 1,500 killed, while 2/4 suffered 81 dead and 397 wounded / By 15 May 1968 the PAVN were driven back north across the DMZ / Total losses for the Marines were 233 killed and 821 wounded / PAVN losses were put at 2,945 killed and 47 POW's / The other major operations that 2/4 was involved in were Operation Lancaster II ran from 21 January to 23 November 1968 / This was a multiple battalion operation was to secure Route 9 between Cam Lo and Ca Lu / Total losses were 359 marines killed 1,713 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 1,801 / Operation Napoleon/Saline ran from 29 February 1968 to 12 September 1968 and was another multi-battalion operation that covered the Cua Viet river area near the South China Sea / Total losses were put at 117 marines killed; PAVN losses were put at 3,495 / Operation Scotland II was a multi-battalion operation that ran from 15 April 1968 to 28 February 1969 in the Khe Sanh area / Total losses were put at 435 marines killed 2,396 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 3,304 / On 6 November 1969, 2/4 was withdrawn to Okinawa as part of the United States policy of gradually turning the war over to the South Vietnamese

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STEFFANS

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

MARSHALL

G.

Address: 396 TONAWANDA STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private Marshall George Steffans honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT Marshall Steffans was deployed to Vietnam in October 1966 as a Mortarman / PVT Marshall Steffans was Killed In Action on 2 July 1967 as a result of wounds suffered from small arms fire when ambushed on Route 56,1 NE of Con Thien, Quang Tri province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Marshall Steffans attended Burgard High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1965 / Marshall George Steffans was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Marshall George Steffans is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 115

A Mortarman is a soldier who operates a firing device called a mortar / Mortarmen in the U.S. Marines are the unit that's mainly responsible for the tactical employment of the 60 mm light mortar and the 81 mm medium mortar



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEINER III**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

R.

Address: 142 ORLANDO STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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:

Sergeant Joseph R. Steiner, III honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Joseph Steiner was deployed to Vietnam as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SGT Joseph Steiner was Killed In Action on 17 August 1968 as a result of wounds suffered when the M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier he was aboard was destroyed by a detonated 8-inch howitzer round during military operations in Binh Dinh province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Joseph Steiner Steiner was a 1965 graduate of South Park High School / Steiner worked for Bethlehem Steel in Lackawanna and was a member of the United Steel Workers of America, AFL-CIO / Steiner entered the Army in September 1967 / Joseph R. Steiner, III was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Joseph R. Steiner, III is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48w, Line 35

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

The 4th Infantry Division is a division of the United States Army based at Fort Carson, Colorado / The division was first activated in 1917 and has served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom1 / The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry is a battalion of the United States Army and assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado

The 69th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The 69th Armor Regiment is part of the U.S. Army Regimental System / The 1st Battalion was deployed to South Vietnam on 25 January 1966 with the Battalion laying over in Okinawa to take over 52 new M48A3 tanks and familiarize crews with the new series, AN-GRC 12 radios / "A" Company was committed within two hours of its disembarking from LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) in Saigon as a reaction force to combat in the Filhol Rubber Plantation west of Saigon / The battalion's first major combat operation took place in April 1966 in the tangled jungle growth of the Ho Bo Woods and along the trails of the Filhol Rubber plantation northwest of Saigon / This operation proved the value of armor in reducing friendly casualties while significantly increasing losses to the enemy / 69th Armor tankers learned on-the-job the importance of rear and flank security, the effect of canister in dense jungle, the exaggerated needs for constant maintenance halts / "A" Company completed its mission with the 1st Cavalry in October 1967 and returned to Camp Enari with Battalion HQ / "A" Company was charged with the security of Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Pass, and on 10 April 1968, routed a regimental size ambush attempt on a convoy by the 95B Regiment killing 45 Viet Cong and capturing seven crew-served weapons; U.S. losses were one killed / The battalion continued operations west of Pleiku and along the coastal plain during 1969 with both the 4th Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade / The 1st Battalion stood down with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and returned to the U.S. in mid-1970 / The unit and its component line companies were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Award, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Vietnam Civic Action Award First Class

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STEINKIRCHNER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

JAMES

L.

Address: 130 BURNS COURT

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

AMERICAL DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 16TH ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class James Lewis Steinkirchner honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 James Steinkirchner was deployed to Vietnam on 23 June 1970 as a Field Artillery Basic / SP4 James Steinkirchner died on 27 February 1971 from a non-hostile accident in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

Landing Zone (LZ) Snoopy was an Americal firebase located along National Highway QL-1 in Quang Ngai Province, RVN / Among the munitions fired from Snoopy were white phosphorus rounds / White phosphorus is employed as a smoke, illumination, or incendiary munition, and burns at a temperature of up to 2,760 degrees Celsius (5,000 degrees Fahrenheit) / On 27 February 1971, a white phosphorus mortar round prematurely detonated at the LZ, fatally injuring three artillerymen from A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery / The lost personnel were PFC Dennis L. Craver, SP4 John A. Cukale Jr., and SP4 James L. Steinkirchner

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Steinkirchner was a graduate of Cardinal O'Hara High School / Steinkirchner was employed by the Town of Tonawanda Highway Department before he entered the U.S. Army on 17 July 1969 / James Lewis Steinkirchner was 21 years of age at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

James Lewis Steinkirchner is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 9

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

The Americal Division was an infantry division of the United States Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The division was activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia / In the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, the United States had hurriedly sent a task force to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II / The new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" / This was unusual, as with the exception of the Philippine Division, all other U.S. divisions were known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division, but was rarely referred to as such, even on official orders / During the Vietnam War the division had a mixed record / It combined participation in numerous battles and campaigns / The division suffered a tactical defeat in the early morning of 28 March 1971, when Vietcong sapper commandos successfully infiltrated FSB Mary Ann / The attack destroyed key infrastructure, as well as killing 33 and wounding 83 Americans / The division was deactivated following its withdrawal from South Vietnam in November 1971

The 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery battalion assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division / Carrying the lineage of Battery C, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, the battalion carries campaign streamers from World War I, World War II, and Vietnam, and has served with the 4th Infantry Division and 8th Infantry Division / The unit's nickname is "Rolling Thunder", and their motto is "Macte Nova Virtute" (Go Forth With New Strength) / The battalion is composed of a headquarters and headquarters battery (HHB), three cannon batteries (Batteries A, B, and C), and has an attached Forward Support Company, Company F, 15th Brigade Support Battalion / 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery participated in the Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer–Fall 1969; Winter–Spring 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; and Counteroffensive, Phase VII; Consolidation I / The unit was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **STERLACE**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

A.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Robert A. Sterlace honorably served in the United States Military and was deployed to Vietnam (NO OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STETTER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: AMHERST

RONALD

T.

Address: 104 DONNA LEA DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2LT

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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:

Second Lieutenant Ronald Thomas Stetter honorably served in the United States Army / 2nd LT Ronald Stetter was deployed to Vietnam on 2 March 1968 as an Infantry Unit Commander (Airborne Qualified) / 2LT Ronald Stetter was Killed In Action on 25 April 1968 from enemy small arms fire during the Tet Offensive in the A Shau Valley, along Highway 547, 15 km SW of Hue, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

2LT Stetter graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS), Fort Benning, Georgia in 1967 and attended Jungle Warfare School, Fort Davis, Canal Zone in February 1968 before being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Ronald Stetter attended Christ the King School / Stetter graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1964 and was an Eagle Scout in Troop 65 / Ronald Stetter attended Canisius College before enlisting in the U.S. Army in July 1965 / Ronald Thomas Stetter was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Ronald Thomas Stetter is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 52e, Line 12

Infantry Unit Commanders lead and control the Infantry and combined armed forces during land operations / Other duties include coordinating employment of Infantry Soldiers at all levels of command, including multinational operations / Developing infantry doctrine, organizations, and equipment unique to these operations

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 327th Infantry Regiment (Bastogne Bulldogs) is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army / During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division / It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division / Elements of the 1st Brigade, the 1st and 2nd Battalions 327th Infantry were deployed to South Vietnam on 29 July 1965, where they were joined by the rest of the division in late 1967 / In October 1968, the 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Lyndon B. Johnson / The 327th Infantry Regiment has also been deployed in the Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STEWART
LAWRENCE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 99 EAST UTICA STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Lawrence Stewart honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Lawrence Stewart was deployed to Vietnam on 25 August 1967 as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Lawrence Stewart died on 15 December 1967 when an American artillery shell fell short on his position while serving in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

LCPL Lawrence Stewart was a Machine Gunner serving with C Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division / On 15 December 1967, LCPL Stewart was on a platoon-sized patrol in Thua Thien Province, RVN, when two rounds of friendly artillery landed near their position / The two shells, believed to come from the direction of Camp Evans, wounded four members of the patrol, including Stewart / He was medivacked with two others / LCPL Stewart later died as a result of fragmentation wounds to the head at Naval Support Activity Station Hospital in Da Nang, South Vietnam

LCPL Lawrence Stewart has been wounded on two previous occasions during military operations

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Miscellaneous:

Lawrence Stewart attended School 36 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June 1966 / Lawrence Stewart was 18 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Lawrence Stewart is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 32e, Line 6

Marine Corps Machine Gunners are responsible for the deployment, care, mounting, and unmounting of heavy machine guns / There are several types of heavy machine guns / The primary mission of these machine guns is to provide overwhelming firepower while in a firefight or while suppressing an enemy position / While on foot patrol, the machine guns are carried in support of infantry platoons or light armored reconnaissance units / On convoys, the machine gunners are responsible for mounting and utilizing heavy machine guns in the form of 50-caliber or 40 mm heavy machine guns / Machine gunners are usually referred to as "31s" by the other infantry Marines in their platoon or battalion

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA)



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STRATE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ALDEN

JOHN

D.

Address: 13699 BROADWAY

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

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 John Delbert Strate honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Strate was deployed to Vietnam on 5 February 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 John Strate was Killed In Action on 16 August 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds as a result of enemy mortar fire in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Jackson, South Carolina - Fort Jackson is a United States Army installation, which the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) operates for Basic Combat Training (BCT), and is located within the city of Columbia, South Carolina / Fort Jackson was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army general and the seventh president of the United States (1829–1837) who was born in the border region of North and South Carolina / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

is the post's primary mission / 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually

Miscellaneous:

John Strate was born in Keokuk, Iowa / Strate graduated from Alden Central School and attended Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan before entering the U.S. Army in 1967 / John Delbert "Chapman" Strate was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa

John Delbert Strate is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48w, Line 31

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 12th Cavalry is a cavalry regiment of the United States Army / It is currently stationed at Fort Cavazos, formerly known as Fort Hood / On 2 February 1901, Congress authorized the organization of the Twelfth Regiment of Cavalry, Army of the United States / Under this authority, the regiment was formed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on 8 February 1901 / During World War II, the 2nd Battalion saw its first combat on Los Negros Island in March 1944 and also participated in the invasion of the Philippines / The 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and fought the division's first engagement from 18 to 20 September 1965 as part of Operation Gibraltar / On 2 February 1968 during the Battle of Hue, the battalion was deployed from Camp Evans to PK-17 to launch an attack towards La Chu to close off the PAVN supply routes west of Hue / The battalion participated in the Cambodian Incursion and earned its 16th campaign streamer for the Sanctuary Counteroffensive / On 26 March 1971, the battalion stood down after five and a half years in Vietnam and returned to the United States at Fort Hood, Texas

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: STROBEL
WILLIAM E.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: AMHERST

Address: 268 SPRINGVILLE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY, TROOP C

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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 William Eric Strobel honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 William Strobel was deployed to Vietnam on 27 September 1966 as a Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman / SP4 William Strobel died on 9 July 1967 as a result of a non-hostile air crash in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 9 July 1967, SP4 William Strobel was on-board Army helicopter UH-1D, Tail Number 63-08776 when the aircraft commander reported having engine trouble and started a forced landing / Because the engine's RPM was low, the aircraft hit the ground hard and rolled on its right side / Suspected cause of the accident was engine failure / The crash cost the life of Crew Chief SP4 William E. Strobel / Of the other eight persons onboard the aircraft (three crew members and five passengers), only one was uninjured in the crash

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Strobel was a graduate of McKinley Vocational School / Strobel attended Wanakena Ranger School in Wanakena, New York and served as a Forest Ranger in Warrensburg, New York before entering the U.S. Army in March 1966 / William Eric Strobel was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

William Eric Strobel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23e, Line 39

A Single Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with how to fix the various systems on a helicopter including the fuel, electrical, and hydraulic system / During training, they learn how to properly disassemble and repair the engine / The Helicopter Repairman is required to be familiar with the repair and installation of aircraft subsystem assemblies / These assemblies can include engines, main rotor head, hydraulic pump, transmissions, gearboxes, rotors, and mechanical flight controls

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The 9th Cavalry was organized on 21 September 1866 at Greenville, Louisiana / In the 1870s and the 1880s, the 9th Cavalry fought with great distinction throughout the western United States in numerous campaigns against marauding American Indians, Mexicans, and lawless settlers / The 9th participated in operations during World War II and the Korea War / On 15 September 1965, the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry arrived in the Republic of Vietnam and began operations as the divisional air cavalry squadron for the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry participated in such pivotal battles as the Ia Drang Valley, Khe Sahn, Binh Dinh, and Quang Tri/ The Squadron was the first unit of the 1st Cavalry Division to capture North Vietnamese Soldiers with C Troop taking three prisoners on 30 October near Pleiku / The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry remained in Vietnam until 28 June 1971 / It is estimated that the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was responsible for 50 percent of all enemy Soldiers killed by the 1st Cavalry Division during the war / It was for this reason that the Squadron earned the nickname "The Headhunters" / Three Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SWIECZKOWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

MICHAEL

J.

Address: 425 EAST EDEN ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Michael John Swieczkowski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Michael Swieczkowski was deployed to Vietnam on 5 December 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT John Swieczkowski was Killed In Action on 20 May 1968 from a hostile explosive device while on military operations in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam

On 20 May 1968, 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, was a couple weeks into a sweep and clear mission in Quang Ngai Province, RVN / Operating understrength at about twenty-eight troopers instead of the forty or so that made up a full platoon, their daily routine consisted of patrols in and around the kaleidoscope hamlets and villes in their area of operations / Early into their day's planned quick, two-hour sweep, a huge explosion occurred when a 500lb bomb exploded / It was unclear whether it had been command-detonated or booby-trapped, but the results were devastating / Eight members of 3rd Platoon lay dead or mortally wounded and another sixteen were injured, ten of which required immediate medical evacuation / Helicopters arrived and carried the wounded to the 27th Surgical Hospital and 2nd Surgical Hospital at Chu Lai Air Base / One of 3rd Platoon's squad leaders was spared when he was sent to Chu Lai for medical reasons the day before / He was tasked with the grisly chore of identifying the dead at the Graves Registration section at 2nd Surgical Hospital, many of who were his friends / The lost personnel included SSG Joseph R. Daigneault, CPL Newton M. Gray Jr., SGT Robert J. Hartley, SGT Richard H. Junk, SGT John D. Larry, CPL Willie J. McClain Jr., SGT Michael J. Swieczkowski, and SGT Richard A. Western. CPL



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Dennis W. Lane, who survived the medivac, expired the following day

Base Assignments:

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to house a large portion of the United States' official gold reserves / It is named in honor of Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery in the American Revolutionary War and the first United States Secretary of War / A new Armored Force was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox with the 7th Cavalry Brigade becoming the 1st Armored Division / The Armored Force School and the Armored Force Replacement Center were also sited at Fort Knox in October 1940, and their successors remained there until 2010, when the Armor School moved to Fort Benning, Georgia / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the American tanks of the day; the last was the M1 Abrams main battle tank / In 2011, the U.S. Army Armor School moved to Fort Moore, Georgia, where the Infantry School is also based

Fort Ord, California - Fort Ord, named in honor of Union Army Maj. Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, (1818–1883), is a former United States Army post on Monterey Bay on the Pacific Ocean coast in California, which closed in 1994 due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action / Before construction and official designation as a fort in 1940, the land was used as a maneuver area and field-artillery target range during 1917 / Fort Ord was considered one of the most attractive locations of any U.S. Army post, because of its proximity to the beach and California weather

Miscellaneous:

Michael Swieczkowski graduated from Hamburg Central Senior High School in 1966 / Michael John Swieczkowski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Michael John Swieczkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 64e, Line 9

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 11th Light Infantry Brigade was formed as part of the US Army's 6th Division during WWI. Activated November of 1917 / Its elements at that time were the 51st Infantry Regiment, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 16th Machine-Gun Battalion and the 11th Field Artillery / The 11th Light Infantry Brigade is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division, AMERICAL Division during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971 / The 11th Light Infantry in early 1967, trained extensively in jungle operations in preparation for deployment to Vietnam / The 11th LIB was deployed during the Vietnam War and served the US Army's 23rd Infantry Division, The AMERICAL



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Division

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) was constituted 3 June 1784 in the Regular Army as a company of the First American Regiment / Redesignated 15 April 1966 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry (organic elements concurrently constituted) / Battalion activated 1 July 1966 in Hawaii and assigned to the 11th Infantry Brigade / On 15 August 1967, the 11th Infantry Brigade adopted the "light Infantry" concept

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SWISHER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

LARRY

R.

Address: 228 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 508TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Sergeant Larry Raymond Swisher honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Larry Swisher was deployed to Vietnam on 3 June 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT Larry Swisher was Killed In Action on 16 March 1969 from enemy small arms fire during military operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

SGT Larry Swisher attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia before quitting to volunteer for duty in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Belvoir is a United States Army installation in Fairfax County, Virginia, United States / The post was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for American Civil War Union Army general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s / Camp Humphreys was established in World War I as the U.S. Army Engineers Training School / It served as the post-graduate institution for U.S. Military Academy engineers and a finishing school for engineering troops headed to war

Miscellaneous:

Larry Swisher was born in Elmira, New York / Larry Swisher attended Hutchinson Central Technical High School,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Buffalo and attended the State University at Buffalo / Larry Raymond Swisher was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Larry Raymond Swisher is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29w, Line 56

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into hostile areas with a U.S. Department of Defense mandate to be "on-call to fight anytime, anywhere" at "the knife's edge of technology and readiness / Primarily based at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / In April 1965, the "All-Americans" invaded the Dominican Republic / Spearheaded by the 3rd Brigade, the 82nd deployed in Operation Power Pack / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Hue – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months

The 508th Infantry Regiment (508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 508th AIR, or 508th IR) ("Red Devils" or "Fury from the Sky") is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army, first formed in October 1942 during World War II / When the 3d Brigade was sent to Vietnam in response to the Tet Offensive in early 1968, 1-508th accompanied it / There it took part of the heavy fighting of Hue and the Tet counteroffensives / It was later awarded the Presidential Unit Citation / From 8 August 1962 to 26 June 1968, the lineage of Co C, 508 PIR was reactivated as HHC, 3-508th INF, and the unit served as an airborne battalion within the 193d Infantry Brigade in Panama / When the Airborne component of the battalion was reduced to a single company (Co A), the battalion was reflagged as the 3d Battalion, 5th Infantry / In 1983 both battalions served in the Operation Urgent Fury with the invasion of Grenada

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Sergeant Larry Raymond Swisher was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **SYGNATUR**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

J.

Address: 172 FOUGERON STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H SCO

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Joseph John Sygnatur honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Joseph Sygnatur was deployed to Vietnam as a Combat Engineer / PFC Joseph Sygnatur died on 19 July 1968 when a mortar shell exploded while it was being loaded aboard a government vehicle in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Sygnatur played baseball and basketball at St. Mary Magdalene School / Sygnatur enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in July 1966 after his third year at Emerson Vocational High School / Prior to entering the military Sygnatur worked at F. Karl Bar Supplies on Genesee Street and was a member of the Police Athletic League / Joseph John Sygnatur was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalbert's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Joseph John Sygnatur is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 18e, Line 51

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / 1st Battalion, 1st Marines returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TATARSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

LESLIE

M.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: WO1

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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:

Warrant Officer One Leslie Miles Tatarski honorably served in the United States Army / WO1 Leslie Tatarski was deployed to Vietnam on 3 August 1969 as an Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / WO1 Leslie Tatarski was Killed In Action on 12 June 1970 when his helicopter crashed after receiving enemy gun fire in Binh Dinh Province, Cambodia / WO1 Leslie Tatarski was awarded the Distinguished and Air Medal, posthumously, for heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

WO1 Leslie Tatarski had been previously injured twice during his 10 months in the War Zone, once over Vietnam by ground fire and again in a helicopter crash

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leslie Tatarski graduated from Hutchinson Central Technical High School / Tatarski attended the State University of Buffalo and was enrolled in the ROTC program for two years before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968 / Leslie Miles Tatarski was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Leslie Miles Tatarski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 49

Helicopter Gunship Pilots were skilled officers who controlled and flew the many helicopters operated by the Military Services / In the Vietnam War the helicopter became one of the most important elements in the daily operations of our war fighting successes / They were involved in every aspect of that war fighting, from medevac, to ammo, troop and supply delivery, to aerial fire support

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / The medal was established on July 2, 1926, and is currently awarded to any persons who, after April 6, 1917, distinguish themselves by single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight / Both heroism and extraordinary achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine

The Air Medal (AM) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / It was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TAYLOR

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

PHILIP

C.

Address: 1596 BEDELL ROAD

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST AVN BRIGADE, 3RD SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY, A TROOP

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN 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:

Sergeant Philip Charles Taylor honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Philip Taylor was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1970 as an Armor Intelligence Specialist / SGT Philip Taylor was Killed In Action on 27 May 1971 when his helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire and crashed in Cambodia

On 27 May 1971, 1LT Thomas W. Knuckey was the pilot and SGT Philip C. Taylor the observer on board an OH-58A helicopter which was part of a force conducting battle damage assessment (BDA) in Kracheh Province, Cambodia, where air strikes had been made in attempts to destroy an enemy machine gun position / The location of the gun emplacement was near the border of Cambodia and South Vietnam, about 8 miles southeast of the city of Snuol, Cambodia / During Knuckey's final pass over the gun emplacement, his aircraft was hit by enemy groundfire, and exploded while still in flight / The helicopter then crashed and exploded a second time and burned / Witnesses reported that the crew could not have survived / Because of heavy enemy activity in the area, a ground search was not possible / Knuckey and Taylor were listed as killed, bodies not recovered / The crash site was excavated in the early 1990s and on 26 February 1993 recovered human remains were repatriated / The Defense Department announced on 02 August 1993 that the remains of both men had been positively identified

Sergeant Philip Charles Taylor was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Philip Taylor attended elementary school in Elmira and high school in Buckhannon, West Virginia / Taylor completed one year at the University of West Virginia / Taylor entered the United States Army in November 1970 / Philip Charles Taylor was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oak Hill Burial Park, Lakeland, Florida (Some records indicate that 1LT Thomas W. Knuckey and SGT Philip C. Taylor were buried together at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia)

Philip Charles Taylor is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 03w, Line 56

An Armor Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Army plays a crucial role in gathering and analyzing information related to military operations / Serves as a member of a scout squad, intelligence staff section, or armor surveillance radar section / Collects, interprets, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information and data / Understands the organization, mission, and function of military intelligence units providing intelligence and counterintelligence information to command / Demonstrates proficiency in photo interpretation, air-ground operations, and tactical missions

The 1st Aviation Brigade is an aviation brigade of the United States Army, stationed at Fort Novosel in Alabama / In accordance with The Naming Commission recommendations Fort Rucker was renamed Fort Novosel in early 2023 / The 1st Aviation Brigade traces its origins to the Vietnam War / In April 1965 the U.S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional) was activated with the existing 13th, 14th, 52nd, and 145th Aviation Battalions already in South Vietnam / In August 1965 it became the 12th Aviation Group, which then doubled in size and was used to form the 1st Aviation Brigade in March 1966 / The companies supporting Army of the Republic of Vietnam units were located in centralized positions to best provide support / The brigade assigned one combat aviation battalion headquarters in direct support of each infantry division and this battalion headquarters normally worked with that division no matter how many companies might be assigned for a specific mission / The Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company was located in Saigon from May 1966 until August 1967 / The HQ then moved to Long Binh where it remained until Long Binh was closed in the early autumn of 1972 / The HQ then moved to the MACV compound at Tan Son Nhut, where it stayed until withdrawal

The 17th Cavalry Regiment is a historical organization within the United States Army that began as a regiment of cavalry after the Pancho Villa Expedition / The unit was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as the 17th Cavalry at Fort Bliss, Texas / Troop B, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element of the 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Vietnam / It arrived in Vietnam on 18 February 1968 and departed South Vietnam on 11 December 1969 / The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry was originally deployed to Vietnam on 12 December 1967 as the ground cavalry squadron of the 101st Airborne Division, but as the division changed to an airmobile mode the squadron was converted to an air cavalry status during the period December 1968 - June 1969 / The entire squadron was involved in intense aerial combat during the Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos, when the helicopters supported the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's drive and retreat directly / This action took place between February and April 1971 / The squadron departed Vietnam on 8 February 1972 / The 17th Cavalry Regiment was reorganized as a part of the U.S. Army Regimental System, an ongoing effort to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

maintain the lineage and history of the U.S. Army through its units / Today, the 17th Cavalry Regiment is found across the army within the combat aviation brigades, where the squadrons, now constituted as attack/recon helicopter squadrons, carry on the legacy of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces / The medal was established on July 2, 1926, and is currently awarded to any persons who, after April 6, 1917, distinguish themselves by single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight / Both heroism and extraordinary achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The 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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TAYLOR, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: LANCASTER

RAYMOND

R.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CWO

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAV DIVISION, 2ND RIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY (HHC)

Medals / Citations:

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Chief Warrant Officer Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CWO Raymond Taylor was deployed to Vietnam on 18 August 1969 as an Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot / CWO Raymond Taylor died on 21 February 1970 from wounds sustained when his helicopter crashed in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

On 12 February 1970, an OH-6A helicopter, tail 67-16144 crashed approximately 10 miles north of Phu Loi, Vietnam with three men in the aircraft / Warrant Officer Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr distinguished himself as the pilot of the aircraft when his ship experienced an engine failure / It crashed and began to burn immediately upon impact, resulting in serious burns to CWO Taylor and the crew / Taylor was able to free and clear himself from the aircraft but realized the other two crew members were more badly injured than himself and had not gotten out of the wreckage / He returned to the burning aircraft to rescue them / After freeing SP4 Ross Erle Hardt from the wreckage, Taylor dragged him away from the immediate area and smothered the flames, burning his own body / Again ignoring his severe injuries, CWO Taylor returned to the flaming wreckage once again in an attempt to rescue the remaining crewman, SGT Larry Herman Goschka but sustained additional burns and injuries which prohibited further rescue efforts / SGT Goschka died in the fire but CW2 Taylor and SP4 Hardt were admitted to a military medical facility, but succumbed to their wounds / Hardt died the next day and Taylor died on 21 February 1970 in the 106th General Hospital in Japan / CWO Taylor was awarded the Soldiers Medal for his distinguished effort / The Soldiers Medal is the just below a Distinguished Flying Cross but for heroism not involving conflict with an enemy



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr. was 30 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

Raymond Ralph Taylor, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13w, Line 42

Helicopter Gunship Pilots were skilled officers who controlled and flew the many helicopters operated by the Military Services / In the Vietnam War the helicopter became one of the most important elements in the daily operations of our war fighting successes / They were involved in every aspect of that war fighting, from medevac, to ammo, troop and supply delivery, to aerial fire support

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army / It is based at Fort Cavazos, Texas and was formed in 1921 / The 1st Cavalry Division has served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan as well as Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve / The unit is unique in that it has served as a horseback cavalry division until 1943, an infantry division, an air assault division and an armored division during its existence / The 1st Cavalry was deployed to Nha Trang, Vietnam in 1965 and 26 March 1971 officially marked the end of duties in Vietnam for the 1st Cavalry Division / The service of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War was not without a price / As a grim reminder of their remarkable legacy, the 1st Cavalry Division experienced casualties of 26,592 Wounded and 5,464 Killed In Action

In United States Army units, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is a company-sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within one company / In identifying a specific headquarters unit, it is usually referred to by its abbreviation as an HHC / While a regular line company is formed of three or four platoons, an HHC is made up of the headquarters staff and headquarters support personnel of a battalion, brigade, division, or higher level unit / The Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides command, staff, administrative, supply and maintenance, communication, engineer, and medical support for the battle group

The Soldier's Medal is an individual decoration of the United States Army / It was introduced as Section 11 of the Air Corps Act, passed by the Congress of the United States on July 2, 1926 / The Army's Soldier's Medal is equivalent to the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Air Force and Space Force's Airman's Medal, and the Coast Guard Medal / Prior to the creation of the Airman's Medal in 1960, airmen were awarded the Soldier's Medal / The medal is "awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, including Reserve Component soldiers not serving in a duty status at the time of the heroic act, distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving conflict with an enemy"

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: THIELGES

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

CHARLES

T.

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

11TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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 Charles Theodore Thielges honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Charles Thielges was deployed to Vietnam on 23 September 1968 as a Unit Supply Specialist / SP4 Charles Thielges was Killed In Action on 4 September 1969 from wounds received during enemy mortar shelling during combat operations in South Vietnam

SP4 Charles Thielges was treated for his wounds in a Vietnamese Army Hospital and then transferred and died in the 106th Base Hospital in Kishine, Japan on 4 September 1969 from wounds suffered in combat action near Saigon, South Vietnam on 22 August 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Thielges was born in Shinglehouse, Pennsylvania / Thielges entered the United States Army in Buffalo / Charles Theodore Thielges was 27 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Wildwood Cemetery, Brockway, Pennsylvania

Charles Theodore Thielges is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

at VVM Wall, Panel 18w, Line 35

A Unit Supply Specialist is responsible for supervising and maintaining all Army supplies and equipment / Specialists operate an automated supply system and perform functions in property accountability, supply chain management, and procurement / Unit Supply Specialists also safely secure and control weapons and ammunition in security areas

The 11th Light Infantry Brigade was formed as part of the US Army's 6th Division during WWI. Activated November of 1917 / Its elements at that time were the 51st Infantry Regiment, 52nd Infantry Regiment, 16th Machine-Gun Battalion and the 11th Field Artillery / The 11th Light Infantry Brigade is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division, AMERICAL Division during the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1971 / The 11th Light Infantry in early 1967, trained extensively in jungle operations in preparation for deployment to Vietnam / The 11th LIB was deployed during the Vietnam War and served the US Army's 23rd Infantry Division, The AMERICAL Division

The 21st Infantry Regiment ("Gimlet") is a United States Army infantry regiment / The 1st Battalion currently exists as part of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division / The regiment fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom / Task Force Smith, the first American unit to see action in the Korean War, was derived from the regiment's 1st Battalion / The 3rd Battalion of the regiment was activated on 10 September 1965 at Fort Devens / It was subordinated to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade / On 26 August 1966, it was sent to South Vietnam / The brigade was attached to the 25th Infantry Division and was based at Tây Ninh / 3rd Battalion fought in Operation Attleboro between September and November 1966 / In January 1967, the battalion participated in Operation Cedar Falls / Between February and April, it participated in Operation Junction City / The 196th was then transferred to Chu Lai / On 15 July 1969, it was attached to the 23rd Infantry Division until that division's withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971 / The 3rd Battalion then formed Task Force Gimlet, patrolling the "rocket belt" around Da Nang / From 5 to 11 August 1972, Delta Company, 3/21st Infantry undertook the last patrol by U.S. troops in the war with two soldiers wounded by booby traps / The unit was relieved by South Vietnamese soldiers / The battalion was withdrawn from South Vietnam on 23 August 1972 and inactivated in Oakland on the same day

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **THOMAS**
JAMES

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

W.

Address: 79 HAGAR STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: HN

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VITENAM

Service Notes:

Hospitalman James Weldon Thomas honorably served in the United States Navy / HN James Thomas was deployed to Vietnam on 8 December 1968 as a Hospitalman / HN James Thomas was Killed In Action on 29 January 1969 when he was mortally wounded and died outright from enemy small arms fire while on patrol in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Thomas was a 1966 graduate of South Park High School / James Weldon Thomas was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

James Weldon Thomas is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 33w, Line 18

Hospitalmen (HN) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury, including medical aid and preventive medicine procedures; assist with physical examinations; provide patient care and the administration of Medicinals and parenteral solutions; perform general laboratory, pharmacy, and other patient



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

support services; assist in the administrative supply and accounting procedures within medical departments ashore, afloat, and with the Marine Corps; serve as sole medical personnel or battlefield Corpsman while assigned to field/operational units; perform tactical casualty combat care (TCCC); instruct medical and non-medical personnel in medical aid, self-aid, personal hygiene, and health records maintenance and assist in the transportation of the sick and injured; assist in the maintenance of environmental health standards; and are prepared to assist in the prevention and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) casualties and other contingencies

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / 1st Battalion, 1st Marines returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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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 Navy Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was established in August 1936 / The General Orders of the Department of the Navy which established the medal states, "The medal will be awarded, to the officers and enlisted men of the Navy who shall have actually landed on foreign territory and engaged in operations against armed opposition, or operated under circumstances which, after full consideration, shall be deemed to merit special recognition and for which service no campaign medal has been awarded" / The Navy Expeditionary Medal was retroactively authorized to February 12, 1874

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **THORSTEINSON**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

VERNON

J.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Corporal Vernon Joseph Thorsteinson honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Vernon Thorsteinson was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / CPL Vernon Thorsteinson was Killed In Action on 12 August 1967 from hostile small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Vernon Thorsteinson was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and grew up in Atikokan, Ontario, Canada / Thorsteinson was an army cadet in high school / After attending the University of Toronto, Thorsteinson dropped out and joined the U.S. Marines Corps, enlisting in Buffalo / Vernon Joseph Thorsteinson was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Little Falls Cemetery, Atikokan, Ontario, Canada / Vernon Thorsteinson is also listed on The North Wall Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Vernon Joseph Thorsteinson is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 24e, Line 104

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

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The 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines (3/9) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I it served until the early 1990s when it was redesignated as 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines (3/4) during a realignment and renumbering of the Marine Corps' infantry battalions, following the deactivation of the 9th Marine Regiment / The 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines was initially a subordinate unit of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, but was later operationally transferred to the 1st Marine Division as a subordinate unit of the 7th Marine Regiment where it remained until its redesignation as 3/4 / The 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines became the first battalion-sized ground combat unit to be deployed to Vietnam when they landed on 8 March 1965 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam / Over the course of the next four and a half years, the battalion operated from Da Nang, An Hoa and Quảng Trị and participated in over 40 combat operations, including Operation Double Eagle, Operation Buffalo and Operation Dewey Canyon / The battalion redeployed on 13 August 1969, after four years of continuous combat operations / Kilo and India companies were deployed to Bien Hoa Air Base to provide ground support, for Marine Aircraft Group 12 (MAG-12) in May 1972 / They remained at Bien Hoa until January 1973

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **THREET**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

PIERRE

A.

Address: 66 CARY STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, E COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART W/GOLD STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Pierre Anatole Threet honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Pierre Threet was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / PFC Pierre Threet was Killed In Action on 19 September 1967 from enemy mortar rounds during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During the month of September 1967, the 2nd Battalion participated in Operations Fremont, Liberty, and Kingfisher moving on 12 September from Camp Evans in Thua Thien Province to Con Thien (Hill 158) in northern Quang Tri Province / Under the OPCODE (Operational Control) of the 9th Marines, the Battalion engaged in providing security for the Combat Outpost at Con Thien and Charlie-2 during Operation Kingfisher / On 19 September, a security patrol from Company was 800 meters east of Con Thien when the Marines were hit with a barrage of enemy mortar fire / Two men were wounded, including PFC Pierre Threet who was killed by multiple fragmentation wounds from the deadly hostile fire

In the July 1967, the 2nd Battalion was conducting combat operations in Thua Thien Province, and during one engagement with the enemy PFC Pierre Threet was wounded in the leg / Threet was treated for his injury and returned for duty to his unit

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Pierre Threet was born in France / Pierre Threet graduated from School 82 and attended East High School before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 10 August 1966 in Buffalo / Pierre Anatole Threet was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Pierre Anatole Threet is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 26e, Line 94

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2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4) is an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / The battalion, nicknamed the Magnificent Bastards from the Vietnam War, is based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and is a part of the 5th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division / During World War II, the battalion's first assignment was to take part in the assault on Emirau Island / During the remainder of World War II, the battalion saw action in the Battles of Guam (2/4 was the first ashore) and of Okinawa / On Okinawa, the battalion was involved in the fighting for the Motobu Peninsula, the capture of Naha, and the assault on the Oruku Peninsula / In May 1965 the 2nd Battalion landed at Landing Zone (LZ) Blue (west of Green Beach) near Chu Lai / The first combined land operation of the war was Operation Lien Ket 4 between 2/4 and 3rd Battalion, Republic of Vietnam Marine Division on 28 July / The first major engagement for the battalion was Operation Starlite (the first regimental sized battle for American forces since the Korean War) in August 1965 / Beginning in 1966, combat operations measurably increased with the battalion participating in Operation Double Eagle and Operation Hastings, a coordinated Marine/Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) search and destroy mission / The 1968 Tet Offensive resulted in an increase in fighting along the DMZ / A bitter clash started 30 April 1968 and ran through 3 May 1968 between 2/4 and the PAVN 320th Division (8,000 to 10,000 soldiers) that broke out northeast of Dong Ha / To protect the base and also the 3rd Marine Division headquarters, 2/4 reinforced by B/1/3 was moved forward to seize the fortified village and area around Dai Do / The three day Battle of Dai Do was costly for both sides / The PAVN lost nearly 1,500 killed, while 2/4 suffered 81 dead and 397 wounded / By 15 May 1968 the PAVN were driven back north across the DMZ / Total losses for the Marines were 233 killed and 821 wounded / PAVN losses were put at 2,945 killed and 47 POW's / The other major operations that 2/4 was involved in were Operation Lancaster II ran from 21 January to 23 November 1968 / This was a multiple battalion operation was to secure Route 9 between Cam Lo and Ca Lu / Total losses were 359 marines killed 1,713 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 1,801 / Operation Napoleon/Saline ran from 29 February 1968 to 12 September 1968 and was another multi-battalion operation that covered the Cua Viet river area near the South China Sea / Total losses were put at 117 marines killed; PAVN losses were put at 3,495 / Operation Scotland II



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

was a multi-battalion operation that ran from 15 April 1968 to 28 February 1969 in the Khe Sanh area / Total losses were put at 435 marines killed 2,396 wounded; PAVN losses were put at 3,304 / On 6 November 1969, 2/4 was withdrawn to Okinawa as part of the United States policy of gradually turning the war over to the South Vietnamese

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TICE

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

PAUL

D.

Address: 57 ROHR STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, H S COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Paul Douglas Tice honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Paul Tice was deployed to Vietnam as a Rifleman / LCPL Paul Tice was Killed In Action on 25 September 1966 during Operation Prairie, when his position on Razorback Ridge was hit by enemy mortar or rocket while fighting the enemy in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam / Due to heavy enemy fire, the remains of LCPL Paul Douglas Tice were not recovered

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Paul Douglas Tice was 20 years old at the time of his passing and a memorial marker has been placed in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Paul Douglas Tice is buried or memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial / Paul Douglas Tice is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 18

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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The 1st Battalion 9th Marines (1/9) was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps / Formed during World War I, it served until the mid-2000s when it was deactivated to make room for one of three light armor reconnaissance battalions / During the Vietnam War, the unit earned the name "The Walking Dead" for its high casualty rate / The battalion endured the longest sustained combat and suffered the highest killed in action (KIA) rate in Marine Corps history, especially during the Battle of July Two / The battalion was engaged in combat for 47 months and 7 days, from 15 June 1965 to 19 October 1966 and 11 December 1966 to 14 July 1969 / Based on a typical battalion strength of 800 Marines and Navy hospital corpsmen, 2,892 Marines passed through the unit over those 47 months; 747 were killed in action (KIA) and 2 were missing in action (MIA)

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TOMASZEWSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

THOMAS

D.

Address: EAST WOODLAWN AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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:

Corporal Thomas David Tomaszewski honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Thomas Tomaszewski was deployed to Vietnam on 22 August 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Thomas Tomaszewski was Killed In Action on 24 October 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds received during combat operations in Ho Bo Woods, Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Tomaszewski was a 1967 graduate of Hutchinson Central Technical High School / Tomaszewski entered the U.S. Army in March 1969 / Thomas David Tomaszewski was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint Adalbert's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Thomas David Tomaszewski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 17w, Line 115

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 12th Infantry Regiment is a unit of the United States Army / Three 12th Infantry battalions deployed to South Vietnam with the 4th Division from August through October 1966 / The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was assigned, set up base camp at Dau Tieng in III Corps while the rest of the 4th Division was assigned to the Central Highlands in II Corps alongside the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Division which had arrived in December 1965 / The 1st and 3rd Battalions returned in December 1970 with the 4th Division to Fort Carson, Colorado / The 12th Infantry has fought in seven wars from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TOWNSEND

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

GARY

R.

Address: 1903 OAKWOOD DRIVE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, F COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Gary Ray Townsend honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Gary Townsend was deployed to Vietnam on 28 July 1968 as a Rifleman / LCPL Gary Townsend was Killed In Action on 30 September 1968 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

In the month of September 1968, Company F was under the OPCON (Operational Control) of the 1st Battalion participating on Operation MAMELUKE THRUST in the Duy Xuyen District of Quang Nam Province / On 30 September, Company F and H launched an attack as part of the Battalions mission on the Cu Ban village complex / Encountering a stubborn enemy in fortified positions, Company F suffered losses of four men killed and several wounded during the battle / One of the casualties was LCPL Gary Townsend who died from hostile rifle fire / LCPL Gary Townsend served two months in Vietnam

LCPL Gary R. Townsend was presented with the Silver Star Medal, posthumously, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with as a Fire Team Leader with Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam / On 30 September 1968, during Operation MAMELUKE THRUST, elements of Company F were advancing through a densely wooded tree line near An Hoa in Quang Nam Province when the Marines came under a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire from a large North Vietnamese Army force occupying fortified emplacements / Alertly detecting a reinforced bunker that was the primary source of the enemy fire, Lance Corporal Townsend rapidly



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

pinpointed the firing positions and, with complete disregard for his own safety, unhesitatingly moved through the fire-swept area until he was only ten meters in front of the position's aperture / Fearlessly exposing himself to the devastating hostile fire, he began delivering automatic weapons fire directly into the bunker, enabling the other members of his squad to move forward and attack the hostile enemy emplacement / Continuing his determined efforts, he was assisting his comrades in destroying the bunker with hand grenades when he was mortally wounded / His timely and heroic actions inspired all who observed him and were instrumental in his unit's subsequent seizure of the enemy position

At Parris Island, Gary Townsend was named the most outstanding Marine in his platoon and received the Leatherneck Magazine Blue Uniform Award

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Miscellaneous:

Gary Ray Townsend was a 1965 graduate of Orchard Park Central High School and had attended Colorado State University at Ft Collins Colorado for 2 1/2 years, majoring in sociology / Townsend enlisted in the US Marine Corps on 7 February 1968 in Buffalo / Gary Ray Townsend was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park New York

Gary Ray Townsend is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42w, Line 51

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force / The 1st Marine Division is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / As its mission, the 1st Marine Division is the division employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment

2nd Battalion 5th Marines (2/5 or "Two Five") is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps consisting of approximately 800 marines and sailors / They are based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and fall under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion has seen combat in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War and has deployed many times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current War on Terror / 2/5 is the most highly decorated battalion in the Marine Corps, and their motto, "Retreat, Hell!", comes from the French trenches of World War I, when a Marine officer named Lloyd W. Williams was advised by a French officer to retreat and replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!" / In April 1966, the battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam and served there until 1971 / During this time, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines participated in combat operations at Hue, Que Son, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Phu Loc / Immediately after their return to Camp Pendleton in 1971, the battalion joined Operation New Arrivals, the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

Lance Corporal Gary Ray Townsend was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TROTTER**
RICHARD B.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 6TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, D COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Richard Barry Trotter honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Richard Trotter was deployed to Vietnam on 20 March 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Richard Trotter was Killed In Action on 26 September 1968 from hostile small arms fire while defending their position in Kien Tuong Province, South Vietnam

On 26 September 1968, less than one week from returning home, SSG Richard Trotter's Company was tasked with participating in a series of airmobile assaults on suspected enemy positions / Shortly after being inserted, SSG Trotter's Company took heavy enemy fire and SSG. Trotter was hit by enemy machine gun fire / SSG Richard Trotter died from his wounds before medics could reach him

For SSG Richard Trotter's exemplary service and many heroic actions during his service he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Barry Trotter was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Tonawanda, New York

Richard Barry Trotter is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 42w, Line 25

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 9th Infantry Division (nicknamed "Old Reliables") is an inactive infantry division of the United States Army / It was created as the 9th Division during World War I, but never deployed overseas / In later years it was an important unit of the U.S. Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The 9th Division was reactivated on 1 February 1966, and arrived in South Vietnam on 16 December 1966 from Fort Riley, Kansas / On deployment the division was assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam where it commenced operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-31 May 1967) in Operation Palm Beach / Its area of operations was in the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta from 1967 to 1972 / Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled Delta, the Division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program / The Division's major units departed from South Vietnam on 27 August 1969 (HHC & 1st Brigade) to Hawaii; 27 August 1969 (2nd Brigade) to Fort Lewis, Washington; 12 October 1970 (3rd Brigade) to Fort Lewis / It was also activated as a peacetime readiness unit from 1947 to 1962 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson, Colorado, and from 1972 to 1991 as an active-duty infantry division at Fort Lewis, Washington / The division was deactivated in December 1991

The 31st Infantry Division, also known as the "Dixie Division," was an infantry division of the United States Army National Guard / It was active almost continuously from 1917 to 1968 / The division saw service in both World War I and World War II, and was mobilized during the Korean War, although it was not sent overseas / The division was organized in 1917 during World War I from the national guardsmen of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, and deployed to France in September 1918, arriving weeks before the Armistice of 11 November that ended the war / It was mobilized in 1940 during World War II, and spent several years training in the United States In 1944 it was sent to the South-West Pacific Area, fighting in the New Guinea campaign and in the Battle of Mindanao / After the end of the war, the division was demobilized in December 1945 / Mobilized during the Korean War, the division served stateside at Camp Atterbury and Camp Carson / The 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Inf Division served in Vietnam from 8 April 1968 until departure on 12 October 1970

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

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,



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Staff Sergeant Richard Barry Trotter was also awarded the following Military honor:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TWOREK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GERALD

J.

Address: 289 FILLMORE AVENUE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 11TH INFANTRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Gerald John Tworek honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Gerald Tworek was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SSG Gerald Tworek was Killed In Action on 8 February 1971 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

SGT Donald R. Coleman, PFC Michael B. First, SSGT Gerald J. Tworek, and SP4 James S. McGough were members of 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry out of Quang Tri Combat Base / On 8 February 1971, SGT Coleman was leading a squad consisting of PFC First and SSGT Tworek which entered an NVA position concealing a communications relay station on the Laotian border / In an engagement with enemy elements, all three soldiers were fatally wounded / Enemy intelligence, records and equipment obtained at the cost of their lives saved many Americans participating in the ARVN operation, Lam Son 719

This was the second tour of Vietnam for SSG Gerald Tworek who served in 1967 as an advisor to the South Vietnamese during the Tet Offensive / SSG Gerald Tworek served in the United States Army for eighteen years

SSG Gerald Tworek was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for acts of valor in combat

Base Assignments:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Tworek was a graduate of Buffalo Grammer and High Schools / Gerald John Tworek was 35 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii

Gerald John Tworek is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 05W, Line 90

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) - nicknamed the "Red Diamond", or the "Red Devils", was an infantry division of the United States Army that served in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, and with NATO and the U.S. Army III Corps / The 5th Division was organized in December 1917 from Regular Army troops as a part of the program for the expansion of the armed forces for service in World War I / In 1968 the division was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, as a mechanized formation / 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to South Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to replace a U.S. Marine Corps unit / The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971 defending the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in northern Quảng Trị Province / It was inactivated on 24 November 1992 and reflagged as the 2nd Armored Division

The 11th Infantry Brigade is an inactive infantry brigade of the United States Army / It was first formed as part of the 6th Division during World War I / It is best known for its service with the 23rd Infantry Division from 1967 through 1971 in the Vietnam War as a light infantry brigade / The 11th Infantry Brigade was deployed to South Vietnam in December 1967 due to a need for additional American troops there and during the Vietnam War served in the United States Army's 23rd Infantry Division (called the Americal Division) / For its service in Vietnam, the entire 11th was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for 1969 and 1970 / The brigade was inactivated at Fort Lewis on 30 November 1971

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TYRCZ, JR.

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WALTER

F.

Address: 125 ALSACE AVENUE

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Walter Fredrick Tyrcz, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Walter Tyrcz was deployed to Vietnam 8 January 1968 as a Rifleman / PFC Walter Tyrcz was Killed In Action on 14 March 1968 from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

Two of Walter Tyrcz brothers, John Tyrcz and James J. Tyrcz also served in Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Miscellaneous:

Walter Tyrzcz attended South Park High School and worked for National Aniline, Allied Chemical Corp before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps on 19 July 1967 / Walter Fredrick Tyrzcz, Jr. was 22 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Walter Fredrick Tyrzcz, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 44e, Line 54

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 3rd Marine Division is a division of the United States Marine Corps based at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan / It is one of three active duty infantry divisions in the Marine Corps and together with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1stMAW) and the 3rd Marine Logistics Group (3rd MLG) forms the III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) / The division was first formed during World War II and saw four years of continuous combat in the Vietnam War / Today, elements of the 3rd Marine Division are continuously forward deployed and forward postured to carry out the US Government's mission of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific in conjunction with its sister services

The 26th Marine Regiment (26th Marines) is an inactivated infantry regiment of the United States Marine Corps / The 26th Marines were activated in 1944 and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II and were activated again on 1 March 1966, and fought in the Battle of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War / On 1 March 1966 the 26th Marine Regiment was activated at Camp Pendleton initiating the formation of the 5th Marine Division / The regimental headquarters arrived in South Vietnam on 26 April 1967 / In mid-May 1967, following the conclusion of The Hill Fights, the 26th Marines took over responsibility for the area around Khe Sanh from the 3rd Marines as Operation Crockett / The 26th Marines conducted Operation Ardmore a search and destroy mission in the Khe Sanh area from 17 July-31 October 1967 / At the conclusion of Operation Ardmore the Marines commenced Operation Scotland, the defense of Khe Sanh Combat Base and search and destroy missions against People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration / From 21 January 1968 the 26th Marines were under siege at Khe Sanh until the conclusion of Operation Pegasus on 14 April 1968 and were replaced by the 1st Marines on 15 April 1968 / From 11 to 19 March 1970 the regiment redeployed from South Vietnam and was inactivated / The 26th Marines were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions during the Battle of Khe Sanh as were the Seabees that supported them

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **URBANCZYK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: HAMBURG

JOSEPH

M.

Address: 3094 LYTH ROAD

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 3RD BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph Michael Urbanczyk honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Joseph Urbanczyk was deployed to Vietnam on 23 September 1968 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Joseph Urbanczyk was Killed In Action on 13 March 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds received as a result of enemy combat fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

SP4 Joseph Urbanczyk was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously)

SP4 Urbanczyk took his Basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and took Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Ft. Polk, Louisiana - An United States Army installation located in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, about 10 miles east of



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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:

Joseph Urbanczyk was a graduate of Lackawanna High School and a student at Erie County Technical Institute before being drafted into the Army / Joseph Michael Urbanczyk was 20 years old at the time of his death and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lakawanna, New York

Joseph Michael Urbanczyk is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29w, Line 33

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 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 21st Infantry Regiment is a United States Army infantry regiment / The 1st Battalion currently exists as part of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division / The regiment fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom / Task Force Smith, the first American unit to see action in the Korean War, was derived from the regiment's 1st Battalion / The 3rd Battalion of the regiment was activated on 10 September 1965 at Fort Devens and was subordinated to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade / On 26 August 1966, it was sent to South Vietnam / The brigade was attached to the 25th Infantry Division and was based at Tây Ninh / The 3rd Battalion fought in Operation Attleboro between September and November 1966 and in January 1967, the battalion participated in Operation Cedar Falls / Between February and April, it participated in Operation Junction City / The 196th was then transferred to Chu Lai / On 15 July 1969, it was attached to the 23rd Infantry Division until that division's withdrawal from Vietnam in November 1971 / The 3rd Battalion then formed Task Force Gimlet, patrolling the "rocket belt" around Da Nang / From 5 to 11 August 1972, Delta Company, 3/21st Infantry undertook the last patrol by U.S. troops in the war with two soldiers wounded by booby traps / The unit was relieved by South Vietnamese soldiers and the battalion was withdrawn from South Vietnam on 23 August 1972 and inactivated in Oakland on the same day

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **VANDERBROOK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GARY

L.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 18TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Gary Laurence Vanderbrook honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Gary Vanderbrook was deployed to Vietnam on 19 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Gary Vanderbrook was Killed in Action on 27 February 1969 from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gary Vanderbrook was a graduate of Buffalo State University College and was an art teacher at the Alexander Hamilton Elementary School in Kenmore prior to being drafted into the Army / Gary Laurence Vanderbrook was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Sodus Rural Cemetery, Sodus, New York

Gary Laurence Vanderbrook is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31w, Line 86

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 1st Infantry Division (1ID) is a combined arms division of the United States Army, and is the oldest continuously serving division in the Regular Army / It has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917 during World War and was officially nicknamed "The Big Red One" (abbreviated "BRO") after its shoulder patch and is also nicknamed "The Fighting First" / A few weeks after the American entry into World War I, the First Expeditionary Division, later designated the 1st Infantry Division, was constituted on 24 May 1917, in the Regular Army, and was organized on 8 June 1917, at Fort Jay, on Governors Island in New York / The 1st Infantry Division fought in World War I and World War II / During the Korean War, the Big Red One was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, while acting as a strategic deterrent against Soviet designs on Europe / 1st Infantry Division troops secured the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and later transported seven convicted Nazi war criminals to Spandau Prison in Berlin / The division fought in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970 / Arriving in July 1965, the division began combat operations within two weeks / By the end of 1965, the division had participated in three 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 18th Infantry Regiment ("Vanguards")[1] is an Army Infantry regiment / The 18th Infantry Regiment currently exists with one active battalion under the U.S. Army Regimental System and has no regimental headquarters / 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment's home duty station is located at Fort Riley, Kansas with the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division / It is a combined arms battalion / The 18th Infantry participated in the invasion of Sicily and Normandy during World War II / The 18th Infantry Regiment would experience almost eleven months of continual combat operations from the allied invasion of Normandy (June 6, 1944) to the end of World War II in Europe in May 1945 / Among the many actions that the regiment participated in were Battle of Aachen, Battle of Hürtgen Forest, The Battle of the Bulge and crossing at the Remagen bridgehead 15–16 March 1945 / Sent to Vietnam in 1965, the 2nd Battalion participated in a total of 11 campaigns of the conflict there: Defense, Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase II, Counteroffensive Phase III, Tet Counteroffensive, Counteroffensive Phase IV, Counteroffensive Phase V, Counteroffensive Phase VI, Tet 69/Counteroffensive, Summer-Fall 1969, and Winter-Spring 1970 / After returning from Vietnam, the Battalion was inactivated on 15 April 1970 at Fort Riley, Kansas, and relieved from assignment to the 1st Infantry 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, 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 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.



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **VANDERHEID**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

MARK

E.

Address:

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Mark Edward Vanderheid honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Mark Vanderheid was deployed to Vietnam on 13 January 1968 as a Rifleman / LCPL Mark Vanderheid was Killed In Action on 28 June 1968 from enemy mortar fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The brother of LCPL Mark Vanderheid, Sergeant William Carl Vanderheid honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Constructed in 1942, the base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments / One of the satellite facilities of Camp Lejeune served for a while as a third boot camp for the Marines, in addition to Parris Island and San Diego

Miscellaneous:

Mark Vanderheid graduated from Tonawanda High School / Vanderheid played varsity Football and Little League baseball / A catcher, Vanderheid was with the Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) team that won the Tonawanda American Little League title in 1961 / He went on to play for Tondisco and the Yankees Babe Ruth League teams / Mark Edward Vanderheid was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Mark Edward Vanderheid is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 54w, Line 8

Infantryman or Rifleman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / 1st Battalion, 1st Marines returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **VARNEY**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: TONAWANDA

KENNETH

A.

Address: 273 DESMOND DRIVE

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH INFANTRY, A COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Kenneth Arthur Varney honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Kenneth Varney was deployed to Vietnam on 23 July 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Kenneth Varney was Killed In Action on 1 May 1967 as a result of enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

"A" Company, Second Battalion, 8th Infantry, had a series of contacts that eventually led to an engagement with a North Vietnamese Army battalion on 30 April 30 - 1 May 1967, in a large, well-fortified base area between the Landing Zone Oasis and Plei Me camp in Pleiku Province, RVN / The NVA battalion had infiltrated before the division's redeployment and was preparing for offensive operations in this area north of the Ia Muer River / It was during this period that the 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry, converted to a Mechanized Infantry Battalion / On 30 April, a dismounted platoon from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, ambushed a NVA platoon moving on a trail / They pursued the survivors into a bunker complex; but heavy enemy machine gun fire prevented them from penetrating into the position / During the night, artillery and TAC Air continually fired on the bunker area as the remainder of Company A, which had joined with the platoon, withdrew 1000 meters and requested Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) and tanks / The next day, with two tanks from the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry in the lead, the mounted company moved toward the area of the preceding day's contact / They drew fire from their flank and reacted by moving towards the enemy fires and into the well-concealed base camp of the 2nd Battalion, 95B NVA Regiment / The enemy battalion had established a secret base from which to



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

operate during the impending monsoon season / The base area was well camouflaged with no trails leading into it and no fire lanes cut / There were no visible signs of the enemy anywhere in the vicinity of the camp / As the tanks and APC's fired cannister rounds and machine guns, the infantry periodically dismounted and moved through dense undergrowth to neutralize bunkers with hand grenades / Sweeps of the area the following day produced 133 NVA bodies, numerous weapons and documents at a cost of only three US lives for both day's activities / Most of the NVA bodies were found where they had fallen, indicating the enemy unit had suffered heavy casualties that prevented policing of the battlefield / The three lost Americans were PFC David H. Bass and SSG Barry J. Short on April 30th, and PFC Kenneth A. Varney on 1 May 1967

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth Varney graduated Kenmore West Senior High School in 1965 / Kenneth Arthur Varney was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Kenneth Arthur Varney is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 19e, Line 8

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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The NYS Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WALLENBECK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

FRANK

C.

Address: 51 WOEPPEL 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

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Captain 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

construction projects, including building infrastructure, roads, bridges, and other facilities

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WARD**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

JOHN

L.

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

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, 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 Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 December 1941

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIDOMSKI**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DANIEL

A.

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 SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade made Vernon Lake II the most successful operation ever undertaken in the 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

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

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WIER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

MICHAEL

B.

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Michael Broderick Wier is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at 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 Freedom / 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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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

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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILCOX**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

CHARLES

C.

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

AIR MEDAL (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

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:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WILCOX, JR.**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: KENMORE

WILLIAM

E.

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

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

☒ **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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WISNIER**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

GARY

W.

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 SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PARACHUTIST 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 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Wall, Panel 53e, Line 9

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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The Army's Basic Parachutist Badge is awarded to all military personnel of any service who complete the US Army Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia / It signifies that the soldier is a trained military parachutist, and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WRATTEN**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: ALDEN

GARY

P

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 SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

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:



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **WRAZEN**
GERALD

☒ Killed in Vietnam

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **YOUNG**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

R.

Address: 17 DOWNING STREET

☐ **Vietnam Era**

☒ **Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1970

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, 39TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 45TH ENG GROUP, 160TH ENG COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ **Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph Robert Young honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Joseph Young was deployed to Vietnam as a Plumber / SP4 Joseph Young died on 15 September 1971 from non-hostile injuries while serving in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

SP4 Robert Young was critically injured in a grenade accident in Quang Tri Province, RVN / He died four days later / The cause of death was coded as burns

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Young graduated from South Park High School / Young worked for the New York State Thruway Authority before entering the U.S. Army in March 1970 / Joseph Robert Young was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Joseph Robert Young is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 02w, Line 17

Engineering Battalions performed many engineering tasks, including demolitions, obstacle emplacement, fortification, and light bridge building / Engineer general service regiments and battalions performed construction, repair, and maintenance duties of all kinds behind the front lines / When needed, combat engineers also could act as infantry

The 18th Engineer Brigade (Theater Army) is an engineer brigade of the United States Army / It is currently a subordinate unit of 21st Sustainment Command (Theater) and is headquartered at Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany / Soldiers of the 18th Engineer Brigade provide various supportive duties to other Army units, including construction, engineering, and mechanical work on other Army projects / The brigade served in Europe during World War II, a fact which was included on its Distinctive Unit Insignia when the 20th Engineer Brigade received one on 10 February 1966 / The four corners of the crenelated square allude to their four campaigns in World War II, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe / The 18th Engineer Brigade later deployed to Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, where its battalions saw six years of combat service and supported fourteen campaigns, building infrastructure for both military and civilian projects / The brigade participated in a massive number of road construction projects and airfield constructions, supporting numerous infantry units and operating all over Vietnam / After serving in Vietnam, the brigade became attached to Seventh United States Army / It has since undertaken and completed numerous projects in support of US Army, Europe, and participated in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **YOUNG**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

WELDON

H.

Address: 64 URBAN STREET

☐ Vietnam Era

☒ Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, B COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

☒ Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Weldon Horace Young honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Weldon Young was deployed to Vietnam on 6 August 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Weldon Young was Killed In Action on 20 Nov 1966 during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

PFC Weldon H. Young was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his exemplary courage under fire

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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:

Weldon Young attended McKinley High School / Young was employed by the William Hengerer Company before entering the U.S. Army in February 1966 / Weldon Horace Young was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, New York

Weldon Horace Young is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 12e, Line 98

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 35th Infantry Regiment ("Cacti") was created on 1 July 1916 at Douglas, Arizona from elements of the 11th, 18th and 22nd Infantry Regiments / The 35th served on the Mexico–US border during the First World War and was stationed at Nogales, Arizona in 1918 / It fought a border skirmish on 27 August 1918 during the Battle of



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

Ambos Nogales / In World War II, Korea, and Vietnam it served as part of the 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) Division / In August 1965, elements of the 35th Infantry started their rotation into the Vietnam War, arriving in South Vietnam / The 1st and 2d battalions, along with the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, and the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery provided the core combat units of the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and were deployed to the Central Highlands at Pleiku / Final units arrived by Christmas 1965 / The battalions of the 35th Infantry were heavily engaged from January 1966 until 1972 throughout the I Corps and II Corps areas of operations (the Central Highlands and central coastal areas of Vietnam) / In August 1967, operational control of the two battalions of the 35th Infantry and all of the other parts of the 3d Brigade were transferred from the 25th Infantry Division to the 4th Infantry Division / From May through June 1970, the battalions of the 35th Infantry participated in the Incursion operations against enemy sanctuaries located in Cambodia, seizing thousands of tons of supplies and hundreds of weapons / Following its return from Cambodia to South Vietnam, the division resumed its place in the Vietnamization Program / By late December 1970, elements of the 35th Infantry were able to begin redeployment to Schofield Barracks / The 35th Infantry had three Medal of Honor recipients in Vietnam

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

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The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat 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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

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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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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMPFER

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: WEST SENECA

FRED

C.

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 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:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ZIOMEK**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: BUFFALO

FREDERICK

M.

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military

Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975



Erie County

Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ZYDEL**

☒ Killed in Vietnam

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

RONALD

W.

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 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:

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

as a part of the program for the expansion of the armed forces for service in World War I / In 1968 the division was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, as a mechanized formation / 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to South Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to replace a U.S. Marine Corps unit / The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971 defending the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in northern Quảng Trị Province / It was inactivated on 24 November 1992 and reflagged as the 2nd Armored Division

The 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 /



Honoring Our Vietnam War Military Killed In Action



1 November 1955 - 30 April 1975

Erie County



Town of West Seneca, New York

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