



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAETANO  
PATRICK T.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Patrick T. Caetano honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Patrick T. Caetano passed away on 14 October 2025



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**Name:** CAETANO  
PATRICK T.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone    Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Patrick T. Caetano honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Patrick T. Caetano passed away on 14 October 2025 at the age of 79 years old and his remains cremated



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAIN

GREGORY J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** WOODWARD COURT

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class Gregory Jack Cain honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C Gregory Cain was deployed to Vietnam from 1967 through 1968 and was assigned to the Combat Security Police

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Combat Security Police (CSP) was a first of its kind Air Force light infantry unit with specialized training in both air base defense and offensive operations / It was created in 1967 as part of "Operation Safeside" to better protect US air bases in Vietnam / CSP were trained as Air Force "Rangers" and were equipped to function as a quick reaction force should an air base come under attack, or as a seek and destroy unit which could set ambushes to destroy enemy infiltrators outside or on the perimeter of a base / The creation of CSP was a response to well-planned attacks by organized guerilla raiding parties on three of the major air bases in Vietnam



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CALABRESE  
JOSEPH

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

16TH AVIATION COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

4 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Joseph Calabrese honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Joseph Calabrese was deployed to Vietnam for 25 months, serving as an Airplane Repairman

SP5 Joseph Calabrese was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 3 June 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Calabrese was a member of the Tonawanda Post #264 American Legion, Frontiersmen Post #7545 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #77 and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) / Joseph Calabrese passed away on 28 September 2019 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade is a Combat Aviation Brigade of the United States Army and was activated on 23 January 1968 / The Brigade was headquartered in Da Nang, South Vietnam / The 16th Aviation provided aerial reconnaissance, surveillance and aviation assault in support of the Vietnam war effort

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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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CALABRESE

PETER V.

**Hometown:**

**Address:** BUFFALO

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** ASE2

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Aviation Support Equipment Technician (AS - Electrical) Petty Officer 2nd Class Peter V. Calabrese honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter V. Calabrese was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Aviation Support Equipment Technicians perform preventive and corrective maintenance on aviation support equipment, aviation mobile firefighting units, material handling equipment, hoisting and lifting devices, and associated components and systems; service, inspect, test, troubleshoot, and repair gasoline and diesel engine systems, transmission systems, hydraulic, hydrostatic, and pneumatic systems, steering and suspension systems, cryogenic systems, electrical systems, gas turbine compressor units, electrical and hydraulic power generating equipment, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems (excluding avionics support equipment); manage support equipment assets at different command levels; and provide training in operation and maintenance of aviation support equipment

USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) is the United States Navy's third Nimitz-class supercarrier / She is named for Carl Vinson, a Congressman from Georgia, in recognition of his contributions to the U.S. Navy / The ship was commissioned on 13 March 1982 / She undertook her maiden voyage in 1983, and underwent refueling and



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overhaul between 2005 and 2009 / Besides deployments in Operation Desert Strike, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Southern Watch, and Operation Enduring Freedom, Carl Vinson was involved in a number of notable events / The body of Osama bin Laden was buried at sea in 2011 from the deck of Carl Vinson, and that same year, on Veterans Day, she played host to the first NCAA basketball game on an aircraft carrier, between North Carolina and Michigan State

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The Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR)[5] is a service award of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps / The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is granted to any member of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps assigned to a deployable unit (e.g., a ship (including submarines), aircraft squadron, air wing or air group, detachment, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Air Ground Task Force, or other unit type that operates away from its assigned homeport) and is forward-deployed for a period of either 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days each within a given 12-month period; or 6 months stationed overseas in a forward deployed location / When a ship's crew qualifies for the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the ship is authorized to paint and display the ribbon and award stars on the port and starboard side of the bulwark aft to designate the number of deployments conducted throughout the commissioned life of the ship since August 1974

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CALABRO, JR.

FRANK

P.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503RD AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PARACHUTE BADGE

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Frank Peter Calabro, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Frank Calabro was assigned as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic in the US Army Ordnance Corps during 14 months of active duty in Vietnam

SP4 Frank Calabro, Jr. received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 30 July 1971

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Calabro was a long time diesel mechanic at HazMat in Lackawanna / Frank Peter Calabro, Jr. passed away on 15 December 2020

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 / In May 1965, two battalions of the 503rd Infantry deployed as part of the 173rd



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Airborne Brigade to Vietnam as the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to be deployed, joined later by 4-503rd Infantry and 3-503rd Infantry / During its six years in Vietnam, the four battalions of the 503rd participated in fourteen campaigns, earning two Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation / The 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry participated in the only combat jump of the war during "Operation Junction City" in 1967 / It redeployed to the U.S. in July 1971, having the distinction of being one of the last units to leave Vietnam / The 503rd Infantry participated in 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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CALIERI**

**PETER**

**D.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Peter D. Calieri honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Peter Calieri was stationed in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter Calieri was born in Buffalo and was a graduate of West Seneca West Senior High School / After his military service, Calieri sold insurance and officiated at ball games, catching the attention of a scout from the Cincinnati Reds and went to umpire school / Peter Calieri went on to work for nine years in the Carolina League, the Eastern League and the International League, as well as the Caribbean League in the winter, where he was named Umpire of the Year / He also helped bring minor league baseball back to Buffalo in the late 1970s / Calieri was inducted into the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012 / Peter Calieri served as executive producer and co-host of a weekly sports talk program, "Officially Yours," on radio station WECK / Calieri worked in sales for several companies and was a trade show and event consultant for Superior Promotions / Calieri was a member of the National League of Umpires, the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, the Western New York Soccer Association and the Italian Club of Buffalo / Peter D. Calieri passed away on 20 December 2014 at the age of 66 years old

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges /



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CALLAGHAN**

**DENNIS P.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**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 CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal 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

Dennis Patrick Callaghan is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



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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

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



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## January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The 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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAMERON, JR.

GEORGE E.

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal George E. Cameron, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL George Cameron was deployed to Vietnam for 1 year as a Parachute Rigger

Corporal George Cameron was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 7 August 1967

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George Cameron was born in Jamestown, New York / George E. Cameron, Jr. passed away on 12 June 2024 at the age of 79 years old

Parachute Riggers, also known as Airborne and Air Delivery Specialists, undergo a wide range of training to perform parachute drop operations of personnel, equipment, and gear / Parachute Riggers also are trained in equipment recovery operations using various slings and equipment securing gear / Airborne and air delivery specialists are responsible for the maintenance of all life safety equipment relating to airborne or airdrop operations / In addition, they assist in preparing the supplies and equipment necessary to deliver personnel and equipment via parachute and conduct subsequent equipment recovery throughout the course of an operation / They are responsible for performing parachute repack as well as conducting preventive and corrective maintenance on all airdrop equipment / They also assist in evaluating proposed landing zones or drop zones in order to support the planning and execution of an airborne operation

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAMMARATA  
SALVATORE**

**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:**



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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

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American



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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAMPBELL**

**CHARLES A.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **NAVY**

**Rank:** **E-8**

**Year Entered:** **1959**

**Year Discharged:** **1981**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**USS SAIPAN (LHA-2)**

**Medals / Citations:**

**NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

**NAVY MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON**

**NAVY "E" RIBBON (2 AWARDS)**

**NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL**

**GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL W/1 GOLD STAR (6 AWARDS)**

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

**Service Notes:**

Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles A. Campbell honorably served in the United States Navy / SCPO Charles Campbell was assigned as an Electrician's Mate / SCPO Campbell served in the US Navy from 1959 through 1981

Charles A. Campbell was Honorably Discharged and retired from the US Navy after 24 years of active duty

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles A. Campbell passed away on 28 November 2021 at the age of 81 years old

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

USS Saipan (LHA-2) was a Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship, the second United States Navy ship named in honor of the World War II Battle of Saipan / From February to April 1980, Saipan was involved in Anorak Express 80 / The Navy crew of around 800 and an entire Marine battalion of over 2,000 sailed from Norfolk to Norway / In September 1983, while undergoing Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Saipan was diverted to participate in Operation Urgent Fury off Grenada / From September 1991 to March 1992, Saipan deployed to the



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Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm / In 1999, Saipan became the developmental and operational test platform for the V-22 Osprey aircraft / In January 2003, the Saipan was deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terrorism / The USS Saipan was commissioned on 15 October 1977 / Saipan was decommissioned on 20 April 2007 at her home port in Naval Station Norfolk / She was used for weapons effect testing, providing vital information on structural integrity and survivability which will assist in the designing and planning of future ships / The USS Saipan was scrapped on 15 October 1977 / Saipan's awards include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), Humanitarian Service Medal, Battle Efficiency "E" (four awards), the Admiral Flatley Safety Award (two awards), the Sledge Award, the Atlantic Fleet Surface Force "Admiral's Cup" in 1985, COMPHIBRON Twelve's "Bronze Anchor" for retention excellence, and the 1993 COMNAVSURFLANT Command Excellence Award for Command and Control, Maritime Warfare and Logistics Management

The Navy Achievement Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement or meritorious service of military personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / The Navy Achievement Medal (NAM), is the United States Navy version of the Achievement Medal / The U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal"

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

The Navy "E" Ribbon denotes the wearer was on permanent duty aboard a U.S. Navy ship or in a unit that won a battle efficiency competition after July 1, 1974

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAMPBELL**

**GEORGE T.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

George T. Campbell honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

George T. Campbell passed away on 6 November 2024 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAMPBELL**  
**TERRANCE**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

A. Terrance Campbell honorably served in the United States Army and was stationed in South Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, A. Terrance Campbell worked as the Tax Assessor for both the Town and Village of Orchard Park for 28 years / A. Terrance Campbell was an executive board member of the Erie County Assessors Association / Campbell was a member of Father Baker Council #2243 (3rd Degree Knight), Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #6247 AND American Legion Post #567 / A. Terrance "Panda" Campbell passed away on 6 November 2023 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAMPBELL**

**WILLIAM E.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **NAVY**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William E. Campbell honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William E. Campbell passed away on 26 February 2025 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CANNON

MICHAEL B.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Michael B. Cannon honorably served in the United States Air Force / Michael Cannon was stationed in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Cannon graduated from Hamburg High School in 1965 / Cannon worked for Chromate Industrial Corp as an Executive Industrial Sales Representative for 30 years / Michael B. Cannon passed away on 13 September 2025 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAPAGE

GERARD

P.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Gerard P. "Gary" Capage honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerard P. "Gary" Capage passed away on 12 March 2026 at the age of 73 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAPELL

BRUCE J.

**Hometown:** WALES CENTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Bruce Joseph Capell honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Bruce Capell graduated from Riverside High School prior to enlisting in the Navy / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Capell went to work for Carborundum Abrasives / Bruce Capell was a lifetime member and volunteer at the American Legion Post 362 in East Aurora, NY / Bruce Joseph Capell passed away on 28 September 2018 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAPUTA

JAMES L.

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

2 OVERSEAS BARS

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-16 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class James Lee "Jim" Caputa honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Caputa was stationed in Vietnam from 1968-1969 as a Water Supply Specialist with an Engineer Battalion

SP4 James Lee "Jim" Caputa received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 10 March 1979

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

JamesCaputa was a member of the Patriot Guard Riders for 7 years / James Lee Caputa passed away on 31 October 2021

A Water Supply Specialist is responsible for supervising and installing water purification equipment and making sure clean water is stored and available anywhere it is needed / Specialists perform water quality testing and verification, in addition to conducting water reconnaissance and developing water source points

The Army established the US Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802, and gave the engineers responsibility for founding and operating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point / Throughout the 19th century, the Corps built coastal fortifications, surveyed roads and canals, eliminated navigational hazards, explored and mapped the Western frontier, and constructed buildings and monuments in the Nation's capital / In the 20th century, the Corps became the lead federal flood control agency and significantly expanded



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its civil works activities, becoming among other things a major provider of hydroelectric energy and the country's leading provider of recreation / Its role in responding to natural disasters also grew dramatically / Assigned the military construction mission in 1941, the Corps built facilities at home and abroad to support the U.S. Army and Air Force / During the Cold War, Army engineers managed construction programs for America's allies, including a massive effort in Saudi Arabia / In addition, the Corps of Engineers also completed large construction programs for federal agencies such as NASA and the postal service / The Corps also maintains a rigorous research and development program in support of its water resources, construction, and military activities

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARBONE**

**VICTOR**

**T.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Victor T. Carbone honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Victor Carbone received his MSEE degree from the University of Buffalo and was a member of Alpha Phi Delta fraternity / Carbone retired as Vice President of Engineering at Strippit in Akron, New York / Victor T. Carbone passed away on 15 October 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARL**

**WILLIAM E.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1988

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/ OAK LEAF

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Colonel William Ernest Carl honorably served in the United States Army / Colonel Carl entered the New York National Guard on 1 April 1967 and was called up for 24 months of active duty, which included 18 months in Vietnam as a Unit Tank Commander / Carl was honorably discharged from active duty in April of 1969, and continued in the Army National Guard for 19 years, totaling 21 years of service to our country / Colonel William Carl was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from active duty, William Carl entered the workforce as a manager for Firestone and, after retiring from there, found a new role as a school bus driver in Buffalo / William Ernest Carl passed away on 12 November 2024 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

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

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order



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

The 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 Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces that has existed since 1950 / The medal recognizes service performed by members of the reserve components and is awarded to both officers and enlisted personnel

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARLONI**

**JAMES**

**F.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARNCROSS**

**CLIFFORD L.**

**Hometown:**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1956

**Year Discharged:** 1959

**Unit / Squadron:**

100TH ARMY DETACHMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Clifford L. Carncross honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Clifford Carncross was assigned as a Powerman and attached to 100th Army Detachment, White Sands, New Mexico / Corporal Carncross served 1 year and 3 months with 29 days foreign service in South Korea

**Base Assignments:**

White Sands, New Mexico - White Sands Missile Range is the widest and largest military base in the United States of America and covers almost 3205 miles and spreads over five different counties / It is located in the southern part of New Mexico, close to Fort Bliss and its 926 mile range forms a huge area exclusively used for military tests / The base is operated by the United States Army and its primary mission is testing weapons for the Army / NASA also used White Sands for a landing site during the Space Shuttle operation / Some of the most popular operations that take place at White Sands include satellite tests before launching, flight tests and missile testing / The primary mission of the site is to support the Army regardless of the actions it is involved in

**Miscellaneous:**

Clifford L. Carncross passed away on 4 April 2024

A Powerman is responsible for of powering electricity to the Army / Powerman build, install, and maintain electrical distribution systems like utility poles, power lines, and electrical hardware that supply power for all operations



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARSTENS**  
**KENNETH**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARTER**

**JAMES J.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

James J. Carter honorably served in the United States Military / James Carter was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARTER**

**THOMAS C**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CPO

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS NIMITZ (CVAN-68)

USS ANTRIM (FFG-20)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Chief Petty Officer Thomas C. Carter honorably served in the United States Navy / CPO Thomas Carter was trained as an Electronic Technician and served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVAN-68) and Guided Missile Frigate USS Antrim (FFG-20)

Chief Petty Officer Thomas C. Carter retired in 1994 after 24 of service in the U.S. Navy retired as a Chief Petty Officer in 1994

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Carter completed elementary and high school education on Grand Island / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Thomas Carter moved to Jacksonville, Florida and was employed in electronic repair of maritime vessels / Thomas C. Carter passed away on 24 September 2019 at the age of 69 years old and is interred at Jacksonville National Cemetery, Jacksonville, Florida

An Electronics Technician, Submarine, Navigation (ETV) is a Navy enlisted Sailor who operates and maintains electronic equipment used for detection, tracking, recognition, and identification of maritime vessels and navigational aids aboard naval submarine vessels / They repair and maintain naval electronics equipment including navigation, radar, and communications equipment

USS Nimitz (CVN-68) is an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy, and the lead ship of her class / One of the largest warships in the world, she was laid down, launched, and commissioned as CVAN-68, "aircraft carrier,



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

attack, nuclear powered", but she was later redesignated as CVN-68, "aircraft carrier, multi-mission, nuclear-powered", on 30 June 1975 / The ship was named after World War II Pacific fleet commander Chester W. Nimitz, USN, (1885–1966), who was the Navy's third fleet admiral / USS Nimitz first deployed to the Mediterranean Sea on 7 July 1976, with Carrier Air Wing 8 embarked in company with the nuclear-powered cruisers USS South Carolina and USS California / In November 1976, Nimitz was awarded the Battle "E" from Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, for being the most efficient and foremost aircraft carrier in the Atlantic Fleet / In November 1979 the ship moved to the Indian Ocean in response to the Iran hostage crisis in which the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, was overtaken and 52 hostages were held / Prior to this trip, the ship took part in the shooting of the 1980 film "The Final Countdown", whose story was specifically set aboard the Nimitz / After four months on station, Operation Evening Light was launched from Nimitz's decks in an attempt to rescue the U.S. Embassy staff / The mission was aborted after a helicopter crashed at a refueling point in the Iranian desert / The ship returned home 26 May 1980, having spent 144 days at sea / On 1 September 1997, Nimitz began an around the world cruise, again supporting Southern Watch, which ended in Newport News, Virginia on 2 March 1998 / In January 2010, while in the Persian Gulf, the ship was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for back-to-back deployments in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007 and 2008 / The USS Nimitz is scheduled for retirement in 2027

USS Antrim (FFG-20) was the twelfth ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided-missile frigates / She was named for Rear Admiral Richard Nott Antrim (1907–1969) / The Antrim was commissioned on 26 September 1981 / She entered the Mediterranean, on 9 May 1983, and joined the 6th Fleet / On 1 August 1983, the guided-missile frigate passed through the Suez Canal and set a course for the Persian Gulf / Following a brief stop at Djibouti, on 3 August 1983, she began duty as a radar picket ship on 4 August 1983 / Except for a port call at Karachi, Pakistan, from 27 September 1983 to 4 October 1983, Antrim served in the Persian Gulf for almost three months / On 30 January 1987, Antrim was assigned to the Naval Reserve Force, Atlantic, at Mayport / Decommissioned on 8 May 1996, she was transferred to Turkey, on 27 August 1997 / She was stricken from the U.S. Naval Vessel Register on 4 September 1997



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARTONIA**

**CARMEN**

**P.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 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 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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## 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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CARTONIA, JR.**

**JOSEPH**

**A.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 550 BRECKINRIDGE STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph A. Cartoncia, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Joseph Cartoncia was deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division

Charles A. Campbell was Honorably Discharged and retired from the US Army after 24 years of active duty

SP4 Joseph Cartoncia was stationed at An Khe, South Vietnam and met with his brother, Private First-Class Carmen Cartoncia when he arrived in Vietnam / 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 / SP4 Joseph Cartoncia returned home on 11 September 1966 and received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army

The brother of Joseph Cartoncia, Army Private First-Class Carmen Paul 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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CASILLO**  
**CARMINE**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 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 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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CASSIOL

CARL

A.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Carl A. Cassiol honorably served in the United States Army Reserves/National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carl Cassiol was a retired United Auto Worker (UAW) from Delphi / Carl A. "Sonny" Cassiol passed away on 17 October 2024 and is interred at Calvary Churchyard Cemetery, Williamsville, New York

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CASTANZA**  
**RALPH**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ralph Castanza honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ralph Castanza Started working as a Mechanic at Penny's Auto Center and moved into Management at Advance Auto Parts / Castanza moved to Clayton, North Carolina after his retirement / Ralph Castanza passed away on 20 May 2025 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CASTIGLIONE**  
**PAUL**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** BM3

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Boatswain's Mate Third-Class Paul Castiglione honorably served in the United States Navy / BM3 Paul Castiglione served for 6 years

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

A Boatswain's Mate Third-Class (BM3) in the U.S. Navy is a petty officer third class and plays a vital role responsible for a wide range of duties, including supervising the maintenance of the ship, managing deck operations, and ensuring the safety of the crew / BMs are trained in seamanship, navigation, and shipboard safety, and they play a key role in the daily operations of a naval vessel / This position is known for its rich history and honored traditions within the Navy



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CATALANO

GEORGE F.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**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

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE 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 VVM Wall, Panel 24e, Line 50



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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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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CATHERWOOD**

**ROBERT G.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 6TH MARINE REGIMENT, 2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Robert Glen Catherwood honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Robert Catherwood was assigned as a Rifleman during a 12-month combat deployment to South Vietnam, and his final duty assignment was with Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force at Camp Lejeune, NC

LCPL Robert Catherwood was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 20 May 1971

**Base Assignments:**

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

Robert Catherwood served as a journeyman ironworker for Ironworkers Local 6, where he worked on various building projects spanning New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Michigan / Catherwood became health and safety inspector with the NYS Department of Labor, later becoming an independent contractor and private consultant teaching various certification classes in environmental safety, including asbestos monitoring and abatement / Robert Glen Catherwood passed away on 23 January 2023 at the age of 71 years old



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

The 1st Battalion, 6th Marines (1/6) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and consists of approximately 1,100 marines and sailors / Activated on 11 July 1917 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, the regiment was deployed to France from September to October 1917 / or the actions at Belleau Wood, Soissons, and Blanc Mont, the 6th Marine Regiment was awarded the French Croix de Guerre three times / The battalion participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne / During World War II, the 6th participated in the final American offensive on Guadalcanal advancing from Kokumbona to Cape Esperance and eliminating the last remaining enemy forces / The 6th Marines suffered 223 casualties (53 killed in action or died of wounds, 170 wounded in action), during its six weeks on the "Canal" / The regiment also participated in the battle for Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian / In September 1945, the unit deployed to Nagasaki where it participated in the Occupation of Japan from September 1945 to June 1946

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CAUSSAIN

CHARLES O.

**Hometown:** GETZVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Charles Otto Caussain honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Caussain owned and operated Charlie's Barber Shop on Hertel Avenue in Buffalo for 52 years / Charles Otto Caussain passed away on 3 July 2025 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAVANAUGH**

**PATRICK F.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Patrick F. Cavanaugh honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Patrick Cavanaugh was a retired Lackawanna Firefighter and a retired supervisor with the Erie County Water Authority / Cavanaugh was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Colonel Weber Post and Amvets Post #898 / Patrick F. Cavanaugh passed away on 16 March 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CAYLOR**

**RANDY**

**L.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 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 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



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## *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

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 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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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

**Name:** CENDROWSKI JR

EDWARD F.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward F. Cendrowski, Jr. passed away on 21 January 2024 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CERA

RICHARD J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

ABLE COMPANY, 4TH BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR REGIMENT, 197TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (PISTOL)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (TANK WEAPONS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Richard J. Cera honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Richard Cera was assigned as an Armor Crewman during 13 months of foreign service with US Army Pacific

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Cera retired from the United States Postal Service after 41 years / Richard J. Cera passed away on 27 May 2023 at the age of 76 years old

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 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



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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

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 69th Armor is an armored (tank) regiment of the United States Army / The battalion shipped from Okinawa to Vietnam in December 1965 / 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 again, northwest of Saigon / Able Company was charged with the security of Highway 19 between An Khe and Mang Yang Pass, and on 10 April, routed a regimental size ambush attempt on a convoy by the 95B Regiment killing 45 VC 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 197th Infantry Brigade is an active Infantry brigade of the United States Army / In late 1965 an infantry battalion of the 197th Infantry Brigade was inactivated at Fort Benning to provide personnel for expanding the Army in Vietnam / In early 1973, to provide personnel needed for the Infantry School, Continental Army Command directed that the school support troops be reorganized and the 197th be restructured as a unit in the Strategic Army Force



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CHAMBLEY**

**THEODORE R.**

**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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CHENEY

GERALD

M.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CMSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Chief Master Sergeant Gerald M. Cheney honorably served in the United States Air Force / CMSGT Gerald Cheney was deployed to Vietnam for multiple tours

CMSgt Gerald Cheney served in the Air Force for over thirty years / CMSgt Cheney worked in avionics support wings at many Air Force Bases in the United States

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After a long illness, Gerald M. Cheney passed away on 16 October 2023 and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CHENTFANT**  
**JOHN**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CHERNETSKY**

**MICHAEL J.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael J. Chernetsky honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Michael Chernetsky joined the Buffalo Police Department where he worked for 34 years until his retirement in 1995, rising to the rank of Detective Sergeant / Chernetsky authored two books: One was his memoir "Sergeant: My 34 Years Behind the Badge," which tells the story of his years in the Buffalo Police Department / Michael J. Chernetsky passed away on 28 November 2024 at the age of 88 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CHESIRE

THOMAS O.

*Hometown:*

*Address:*

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

*Service Branch:* AIR FORCE

*Rank:*

*Year Entered:*

*Year Discharged:*

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

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

*Service Notes:*

Thomas O. Cheshire honorably served in the United States Air Force

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

Thomas Cheshire was employed by the Moog Corporation as a Senior Designer / Thomas O. Cheshire passed away on 7 March 2025 at the age of 87 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CHIMERA, JR.

JOHN

V.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD ARMORED CALVARY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

John V. Chimera, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John V. Chimera, Jr. passed away on 31 October 2023 at the age of 77 years old

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment, formerly 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment ("Brave Rifles") is a regiment of the United States Army currently stationed at Fort Cavazos, Texas / The regiment has a history in the United States Army that dates back to 19 May 1846, when it was constituted in the Regular Army as the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri / This unit was reorganized at the start of the American Civil War as the 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment on 3 August 1861 / In January 1943, the regiment was re-designated as the 3rd Cavalry Group (Mechanized) / Today they are equipped with Stryker vehicles / The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was the last heavy armored cavalry regiment in the U.S. Army until it officially became a Stryker regiment on 16 November 2011 / It will retain its lineage as the 3rd Cavalry Regiment / The Regiment saw combat action in World War I and World War II / During the 1960's, the 3rd Cavalry Armored Regiment was deployed to Germany in response to the Soviet threat during the Berlin Crisis



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CHIRICO

LAWRENCE J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Lawrence J. Chirico honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Lawrence J. "Larry" Chirico passed away on 22 July 2024 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CHISM

LARRY M.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS DES MOINES (CA-134)

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Larry M. Chism honorably served in the United States Navy / Larry Chism served aboard the USS Des Moines

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Larry Chism was born in Charleston, Illinois / Larry Chism worked for Moore Business Forms in Charleston before being transferred to the company's facility in Grand Island in March 1961 / Larry M. Chism passed away on 12 March 2015 at the age of 73 years old

USS Des Moines (CA-134) was the lead ship of the class of United States Navy (USN) heavy cruisers / She was the first USN ship to mount the auto-loading 8-inch (203 mm) Mark 16 guns, the first large-caliber auto-loading guns in the world / She was the second ship of the USN to be commissioned with the name of the city of Des Moines, capital of Iowa / Launched 1946, she was commissioned in 1948 / Annually between 1949 and 1957, she deployed to the Mediterranean, during the first seven years serving as flagship for the 6th Task Fleet (known as the 6th Fleet from 1950) / In 1952, and each year from 1954 to 1957, she carried midshipmen for summer training cruises, crossing to Northern European ports on the first four cruises / She also sailed to Northern Europe on NATO exercises in 1952, 1953, and 1955 / She saw duty around the world until her decommissioning in 1961 when she was permanently mothballed



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CHLUDZINSKI**

**JOHN**

**F.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John F. Chludzinski honorably served in the United Staes Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Chludzinski worked for the United States Postal Service as a Maintenance Manager / John F. Chludzinski passed away on 29 August 2022 at the age of 72 years old.



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CHMIEL, SR.**

**GERALD**

**M.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 2ND INFANTRY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Gerald M. Chmiel, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Gerald Chmiel was deployed to Vietnam as a Wireman

Gerald M. Chmiel, Sr. also served 2 years active duty in the Army from 1964-1966

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Chmiel, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from active military service on 24 March 1966 and Honorably Discharged from the Marine Corps Reserve on 27 September 1977 / Gerald M. Chmiel, Sr. passed away on 28 October 2018

The role of a Field Wireman in the Marine Corps 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

The modern 2nd Infantry Regiment traces its lineage to 12 April 1808 and constituted in the regular Army as a Company of the 6th Infantry / The Regiment was baptized by fire during the War of 1812 / In the years that followed, the 2nd Infantry fought in the Seminole War and numerous other Indian Campaigns / During the Mexican War, the 2nd Infantry Campaigned from the Rio Grande to Vera Cruz to Mexican city / It was designated on 22 May 1816 as Company B, 2nd Infantry / During the Civil War the 2nd Infantry fought in 23 major engagements / From 1877 to 1898, the 2nd Infantry fought in a series of Indian campaigns in the Pacific Northwest / In 1898 the regiment fought in the Spanish-American War, participating in the battles of Santiago and San Juan Hill, where it fought side-by-side with Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" / In 1899 the 2nd Infantry went to the Philippines to deal with the Philippine insurrection / Four years later, the regiment returned to duty in the western United States, only to be re-deployed to the Philippines in 1906 / During World War I, the regiment was assigned to the Hawaiian Islands, and the war ended just as the regiment was about to deploy to France / In World War II, the 2nd Infantry Regiment fought as part of the 5th Infantry Division in Patton's famous Third Army, leading the way in the breakout from the beaches of Normandy in operation Cobra, capturing the ancient capital of Rheims and seizing Metz after a major battle at Fort Driant / The 2nd Infantry Regiment forced a crossing of the Sauer River and attacked into the Siegfried Line / The Regiment Crossed the Rhine River near the Oppenheim and secured crossing for other Third Army units / The unit then spearheaded the attack into Czechoslovakia and was located near the town of Voltray when the word came to cease all forward movement on 7 May 1945 / In 1965, the 2nd Infantry was deployed to Vietnam and fought initially as light infantry in the North and West of Saigon / Major operations included: Junction City, the largest operation conducted at that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyon, An Loc and An Loc II, plus numerous smaller operations / The 2nd Infantry received 3 Valorous unit awards and two awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of gallantry, with Palm, for its distinguished service / The Battalion successfully deployed to Bosnia in support of operation Joint Guard, where the Unit was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for actions such as Brcko riots and Hill 56 / In June 2008, the unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan, where it continued to serve into 2009

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

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

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



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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

**Name:** CHRIST

DENNIS

G.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Dennis G. Christ honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dennis G. Christ passed away on 19 December 2022 and is interred at the White Chapel Memorial Park, Amherst, New York



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**Name:** CHRIST

DONALD

G.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Donald George Christ honorably served in the United States Military

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald George Christ passed away on 6 October 2024 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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**Name:** CHRISTIANO, SR.  
FRANCIS J.

**Hometown:** GETZVILLE

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Francis J. "Frank" Christiano Sr. honorably served in the Army National Guard / Francis Christiano served for six years as a Medical Corpsman while stationed at a military hospital in San Antonio, Texas

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Francis Christiano graduated from Burgard Vocational High School in 1959 where he lettered in baseball, basketball and cross country / Christiano was a talented baseball catcher with many amateur baseball teams in Buffalo / In 1998, Christiano was selected for the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame / Francis Christiano became a union plumber with Local 22 of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Steamfitters, retiring as a Master Plumber in the early 1990s / Christiano was a part owner of the Park Lane Restaurant in Buffalo and with his brother, started the Fil-Flora Realty property management company in 1979, retiring after 30 years / Francis J. "Frank" Christiano Sr. passed away at the age of 82 years old on 27 November 2022

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CHUBBUCK**

**MICHAEL F.**

**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



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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 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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CHURCH

JANET

M.

**Hometown:** SLOAN

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Janet M. Church honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Janet Church moved to Fort Worth, Texas / Janet M. Church (nee Steffen) passed away on 5 April 2024 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CIALLELA**  
**JAMES** **E.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

James E. Ciallela honorably served in the United States Military / James Ciallela was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CICCARELLA**

**PATRICK F.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO3

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS RANGER (CVA-61)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Third-Class Patrick F. Ciccarella honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Patrick Ciccarella was deployed to Vietnam onboard the USS Ranger and assigned as a Damage Controlman (DC) / The USS Ranger was part of Carrier Air Wing 14, and received the Navy Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious service during combat operations in Southeast Asia from 10 January to 6 August 1966

Patrick Ciccarella was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on 27 July 1967

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Patrick F. Ciccarella passed away on 5 August 2022 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

A Navy Damage Controlman (DC) is a maintenance and emergency repair specialist responsible for damage control, firefighting, and ship stability / They instruct personnel in damage control methods, repair equipment, and lead firefighting teams during emergencies / Damage Controlmen are first responders critical to preventing accidents / These sailors are trained to keep ships and its crew out of harms way

The seventh USS Ranger (CV/CVA-61) was the third of four Forrestal-class supercarriers built for the United States Navy in the 1950's / Although all four ships of the class were completed with angled decks, Ranger had the distinction of being the first US carrier built from the beginning as an angled-deck ship / Commissioned in



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1957, she served extensively in the Pacific, especially the Vietnam War, for which she earned 13 battle stars / Near the end of her career, she also served in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf / The USS Ranger was decommissioned in 1993, and was stored at Bremerton, Washington until March 2015 / She was then moved to Brownsville for scrapping, which was completed in November 2017

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CIESLIK

MICHAEL C.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Michael C. Cieslik honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael C. Cieslik passed away on 23 August 2025 at the age of 79 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CIRAULO  
RICHARD

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard Ciraulo honorably served in the United States Military / Richard Ciraulo was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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**Name:** **CISLO**

**STEPHEN A.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Stephen A. Cislo honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Stephen Cislo was stationed in Okinawa for two years

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Cislo attended St. John Kanty School and Buffalo Technical High School (Clinton Junior High School) / Cislo worked as a Draftsman for Ernst Steel Corp before enlisting in the Marine Corps and returned to Ernst Steel after his honorable discharge / Stephen enrolled at the University of Buffalo School of Engineering, completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1964 / Cislo worked for a year designing infrastructure for a chemical plant in Niagara Falls before moving to the John W. Cowper Company / Employed by Cowper, Stephen Cislo worked on the construction of the Seneca One Tower and several projects on the UB North Campus / Stephen Cislo went to work for the Ciminelli firm as a project manager on the Metrorail construction / Cislo then went to work for Siegfried Construction, becoming Project Manager in 1984 where he worked on the Somerset Power Plant in Niagara County / Leaving Siegfried in 1990, Cislo became the Public Works Engineer for the Town of Niagara / Later in the 1990's, Cislo went to work for the Town of Clarence as an Engineer until his resignation in 1998 / Stephen Cislo went on to work for Kistner Concrete Products in Pendleton, retiring in the mid-2000's / Stephen Cislo was a past President of the Buffalo Section, American Society of Civil Engineers and a Director of the Erie-Niagara Chapter of the New York States Society of Professional Engineers / Stephen A. Cislo passed away on 17 February 2025 at the age of 88 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CIUS, JR.

FRANK

E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS W/ PALM RIBBON

COMBAT ACTION MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Frank E. Cius, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Frank Cius completed basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina in February 1966 and transferred to Camp Lejune, North Carolina for Infantry Training / Cius attended Aviation School in Memphis, Tennessee until November 1966

LCPL Frank Cius was deployed to Vietnam and assigned as a CH-46A Sea Knight helicopter Mechanic and Crew Chief with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (HMM-165) of Marine Aircraft Group 36 (Mag-36), with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

On 3 June 1967, during a rescue mission over Laos, the CH4A helicopter that LCPL Frank Cius was aboard, came under heavy enemy fire / The Pilot was Captain Steven P. Hanson, Co-Pilot First Lieutenant John G. Gardner, Crew Chief Sergeant Timothy R. Bodden, Sergeant First-Class Billy R. Laney, Sergeant First-Class Ronald J. Dexter, Sergeant First-Class Charles F. Wilklow and an unknown number of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) personnel / LCPL Frank Cius was the Door Gunner on the mission / The aircraft received extensive automatic small arms fire upon takeoff from the Landing Zone, took numerous hits and crashed 350 meters from the Landing Zone (LZ), located about 15 miles inside Laos west of the A Shau Valley / The helicopter did not burn on impact, and continued to receive enemy fire / Three ARVN troops were able to return to the LZ where the troops remaining at the LZ were extracted the following day / The troops waiting at the LZ could not search because of the hostile threat in the area / Air searches located the survivors of the crash, but they could not



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be evacuated / The only America found to be in a position to be safely evacuated was SFC Wilklow / Although he was wounded, LCPL Cius managed to evade capture for a day and a half before being taken as a Prisoner of War on 5 June 1967 / For three weeks, Frank Cius and his fellow POWs trekked on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in olive-colored shirts and pants / The enemy had initially taken their boots but returned them for the forced march on the way to the POW camp, Rock Pile / The Rock Pile POW camp was located 30 miles south of Hanoi and was one of the smaller, more isolated POW camps / Also known as Stonewall, Camp B or simply Noi Coc by the Vietnamese, Rock Pile held prisoners from June 1971 to January 1973 / LCPL Cius was held as a POW at the Rock Pile camp in Hanoi, North Vietnam for 5 1/2 years

Of the crew members, SFC Wilklow was safely evacuated, SFC Ronald Dexter was captured and died in captivity on 29 July 1967 / 1LT John Garnder died from the helicopter crash / SFC Billy Laney was last seen wounded on the floor of the helicopter / Reports indicated that SGT Bodden was shot / Captain Hanson was believed to have died from wounds when the helicopter was overrun by enemy combatants

After spending 2,100 days in captivity, SSGT was released during Operation Homecoming on 4 March 1973 / SSGT Cius was hospitalized at the Marine barracks at the Naval Base Hospital in Brooklyn, New York

SSGT Frank Cius was medically retired from the U.S. Marine Corps on 1 November 1978

## *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:*

Frank Cius graduated from Burgard Vocational High School / Cius worked as a Bartender in his family's Bar business prior to entering military service / Frank Cius travels across the country sharing his experiences as a Prisoner of War



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 / 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 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 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 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 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



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

The 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

The following medals were also awarded to SSGT Frank Cius:

## National Defense 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

## Marine Good Conduct Medal

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal was established in 1896 / 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," or the initial term of enlistment if less than three years / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLARK

ARTHUR J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Arthur J. Clark honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Arthur J. Clark passed away on 30 October 2025 at the age of 89 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CLARK, SR.**

**RANDALL E.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Randall E. Clark, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / Randall Clark was assigned as a Cooling System Specialist at Niagara Falls Air Force Base, New York

Randall Clark and his twin brother, Wendell, both entered the Air Force on 12 October 12, 1966

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Randall Clark was born in Kansas City, Missouri and lived in Kansas, Wisconsin and Illinois Randall / Clark stayed in Western New York after his military service / Clark worked at Dunlop in Tonawanda for 34 years / Randall E. Clark, Sr. passed away on 12 January 2024 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Cooling System Specialists are responsible for maintaining the mechanical systems that keep surroundings temperature-controlled / Cooling System Specialists ensure that every space at their respective base is



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functioning correctly / Specialists install, maintain and repair the different HVAC/R systems necessary to complete operations in a variety of climates all over the world

**Name:** CLARONI

ADRIAN

E.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 98 PINE STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Adrian E. Claroni honorably served in the United States Army

Private Adrian Claroni had four brothers serving in the United States Army: Specialist Fifth-Class John M. Claroni (Vietnam Veteran), Corporal Angelo A. Claroni, Corporal Mario Claroni and Private David Claroni

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Adrian Claroni worked for Bethlehem Steel prior to military service



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CLARONI**  
**ANGELO** **A.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 98 PINE STREET

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Angelo A. Claroni honorably served in the United States Army

Corporal Angelo Claroni had four brothers serving in the United States Army: Specialist Fifth-Class John M. Claroni (Vietnam Veteran), Private Mario A. Claroni, Private David Claroni and Private Adrian E. Claroni

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Angelo Claroni worked for Bethlehem Steel prior to military service



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLARONI

DAVID

G.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 98 PINE STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private David G. Claroni honorably served in the United States Army

Private David Claroni had four brothers serving in the United States Army: Specialist Fifth-Class John M. Claroni (Vietnam Veteran), Corporal Angelo A. Claroni, Corporal Mario Claroni and Private Adrian E. Claroni

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Claroni worked for Bethlehem Steel prior to military service / David G. Claroni passed away on 24 December 1997 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, Nw York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLARONI  
MARIO

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 98 PINE STREET

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Private Mario Claroni honorably served in the United States Army

Corporal Mario Claroni had four brothers serving in the United States Army: Specialist Fifth-Class John M. Claroni (Vietnam Veteran), Corporal Angelo A. Claroni, Private David Claroni and Private Adrian E. Claroni

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Mario Claroni worked for Bethlehem Steel prior to military service



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLARONI, SR.

JOHN

M.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 98 PINE STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP5

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

5TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fifth-Class John Michael Claroni, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 John Claroni was deployed to Vietnam as a Mortarman and assigned to the 5th Infantry Division / SP5 John Claroni was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service during combat operations

SP5 John Claroni had four brothers serving in the United States Army: Corporal Angelo A. Claroni, Private Mario Claroni, Private David Claroni and Private Adrian E. Claroni

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Claroni worked for Bethlehem Steel prior to military service / John Michael Claroni, Sr. passed away on 31 October 2009 at the age of 60 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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

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



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

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLAY

JON

A.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Jon A. Clay honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLINTON  
GARY M.

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Gary M. Clinton honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Clinton was a member of the American Legion Post #567 in Orchard Park / Gary M. Clinton passed away on 12 November 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CLINTON**  
LEMUEL A.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Lemuel A. Clinton honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Lemuel Clinton was employed by General Motors where he worked for 35 years until his retirement / Lemuel A. Clinton passed away on 29 March 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CLOUDEN

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

A.

C.

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

A. C. Clouden honorably served in the United States Military / A. C. Clouden was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COBB**

**JAMES P.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**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

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

PARACHUTIST BADGE

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

James Paul Cobb is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM



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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

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order



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

The 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 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 and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy /



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CODY**  
**DONALD**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Donald Cody honorably served in the New York State Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Cody worked 50 years as an optician with Council Eyecare in Williamsville / Donald Cody passed away on 27 December 2025 at the age of 82 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COFRODE**

**WILLIAM J.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William J. Cofrode honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William J. Cofrode passed away on 18 December 2024 at the age of 84 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COHO II**

**ROBERT**

**D.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert Douglas Coho II honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Douglas "Bob" Coho II passed away on 25 December 2022 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a mid-level award given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by acts of heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service / It was established in 1945 and is awarded retroactively to those who served after December 6, 1941



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLAFRANCESCHI  
ALBERT

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1962

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 4th Class Albert Colafranceschi honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Albert Colafranceschi retired from the Ford Motor Company where he had been employed as a Machine Repairman / Colafranceschi also served as a volunteer Fireman / Albert "Al Cola" Colafranceschi passed away on 26 March 2019



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLELLO  
NEIL

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Neil Colello honorably served in the United States Military / Neil Colello was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COLEMAN**  
**DAVID L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

David L. Coleman honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Coleman was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Baker Council #2243 / David L. Coleman passed away on 20 May 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLERN  
ERNEST

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era  
 Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

ARMOR BRANCH

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART W/1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
ARMY AIR MEDAL  
2 OVERSEAS BARS  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL  
COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE  
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL  
MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE (M-14)

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

**Service Notes:**

Ernest "Ernie Colern honorably served in the United States Army / Ernest Colern was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Colern served in Vietnam for 12 months and was wounded in combat action twice, earning the Purple Heart Medal (2)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ernest Colern was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 14 May 1968 / Ernest "Ernie" Colern passed away on July 2021

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COLLADO**  
**JEROME**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Jerome Collado honorably served in the United States Military / Jerome Collado was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLLARD JR.

RICHARD W.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Richard W. Collard, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Collard, Jr. was a longtime salesman for RWC Enterprises and an employee of Tops Markets / Richard W. Collard, Jr. passed away on 18 August 2021 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLLINGRIDGE

WAYNE

M.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A2C

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone    Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Airman Second Class Wayne M. Collingridge honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Wayne M. Collingridge passed away at the age of 79 years old on 9 May 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLLINS

JAMES

M.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

James M. Collins honorably served in the United States Navy and the United States Naval Reserve

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Collins worked for the South Buffalo Railway as a Car Inspector for 25 years / Collins was the Vice President of the Homeowners' Association (HOA) at the Rock Oak Community and resident liaison to management / James M. Collins passed away on 3 November 2025 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Ridge Lawn Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The Navy Reserve is a branch of the United States Navy made up of qualified sailors who serve part-time while working in civilian jobs or attending school / Members of the Navy Reserve are categorized as being in either the Selected Reserve (SELRES), the Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR), the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), or the Retired Reserve / They provide invaluable expertise, experience, and leadership while delivering critical support to global operations and planning / The Navy Reserve provides strategic depth and delivers operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team in a range of military operations from peace to war



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLLINS

MICHAEL D.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant Michael D. Collins honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Collins attended Grammer school at S.S. Peter and Paul Church in Hamburg, New York / After battling Dementia for 11 years, Collins was transferred to the U.S. Veterans Home in Batavia, New York where he passed away on 18 October 2024 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COLLINS

PHILIP

A.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO1

**Year Entered:** 1974

**Year Discharged:** 1994

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

NAVY-MARINE CORPS OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON (11 AWARDS)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (5)

NAVY MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION RIBBON (2)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (PISTOL)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (2)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer First-Class Philip A. Collins honorably served in the United States Navy / PO1 Philip Collins served during the Vietnam Era and the Gulf War Era as a Cryptologic Technician-Maintenance

Petty Officer First-Class Philip A. Collins served our nation for over 20 years on active duty in the US Navy from 1974-1994 / PO1 Collins had a total of over 14 years of foreign and sea service, including deployments to Spain and Italy / Collins received his honorable retirement in 1994

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Philip A. Collins passed away on 1 March 2024 and is interred at St Adalbert's Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Cryptologic Technicians Maintenance (CTM) perform preventive and corrective maintenance on electrical and electronic cryptologic and ancillary systems used for communications, analysis, monitoring, tracking, recognition and identification, electronic attack, and physical security; install, test, troubleshoot, repair or replace cryptologic networks, physical security systems, electronic equipment, antennas, personal computers, auxiliary equipment, digital and optical interfaces, and data systems; configure, monitor, and evaluate Information Operations (IO), Information Warfare (IW) systems, and Information Assurance (IA) in support of national and fleet tasking; manage mission organizational level maintenance; coordinate repair of command, control, communications, computer and intelligence systems; and prepare reports and inventories of equipment



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The Navy Achievement Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding achievement or meritorious service of military personnel who were not eligible to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / The Navy Achievement Medal (NAM), is the United States Navy version of the Achievement Medal / The U.S. Navy was the first branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to award such a medal, doing so in 1961, when it was dubbed the "Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Medal" / This title was shortened in 1967 to simply, the "Navy Achievement Medal" / On August 19, 1994, to recognize those of the United States Marine Corps who had received the Navy Achievement Medal, the name of the decoration was officially changed to the "Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal" / The award is still often referred to in shorthand speech as the "Navy Achievement Medal" or "NAM" for short

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

The Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR)[5] is a service award of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps / The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is granted to any member of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps assigned to a deployable unit (e.g., a ship (including submarines), aircraft squadron, air wing or air group, detachment, battalion, Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Air Ground Task Force, or other unit type that operates away from its assigned homeport) and is forward-deployed for a period of either 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days each within a given 12-month period; or 6 months stationed overseas in a forward deployed location / When a ship's crew qualifies for the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the ship is authorized to paint and display the ribbon and award stars on the port and starboard side of the bulwark aft to designate the number of deployments conducted throughout the commissioned life of the ship since August 1974

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Coast Guard / Both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines receive the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COLOSI**

**RUSSELL J.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE CENTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Russell J. Colosi honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Russell Colosi was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Justin Council, baseball coach of the U-Crest Little League Babe Ruth Division and the MUNY AA League for St. Barnabas Athletic Association / Russell J. "Sonny" Colosi passed away on 17 September 2024 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONBOY**  
**JAMES P.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James P. Conboy honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Conboy retired to Seminole, Florida / James P. Conboy passed away on 21 February 2025 at the age of 74 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONCIALDI**

**JAMES A.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James Albert Concialdi honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Concialdi graduated from Lafayette High School in 1955 / Concialdi was a Computer Programmer and worked at Merchants Insurance Group and the Erie County Police Central Services / James Albert Concialdi passed away on 28 March 2025 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONDIDA**

**JOSEPH**

**A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM

3 OVERSEAS BARS

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: MARKSMAN (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Joseph A. Condidia honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Joseph Condidia was deployed to Vietnam as a Power Plant Operator/Mechanic during his three tours of Vietnam (19 1/2 months) with the 1st Air Cavalry

PFC Joseph Condidia was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 13 September 1968

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Condidia was 100% disabled from exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam / Joseph A. Condidia passed away on 7 March 2017

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 Hood, Texas and was formed in 1921, serving 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 / 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 Air Cavalry was sent to Vietnam in 1965 and their first major operation in Vietnam was to help relieve the Siege of Plei Me near Pleiku and the pursuit of the withdrawing



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People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) which culminated in the Battle of Ia Drang / Because of that battle the division earned the Presidential Unit Citation (US), the first unit to receive such in the war / In 1966, the division attempted to root the communist Viet Cong (VC) and PAVN out of Binh Định Province with Operation Masher, Operation Crazy Horse and Operation Thayer / 1967 was then spent conducting Operation Pershing, a large scale search and destroy operation of PAVN/VC base areas in II Corps in which 5,400 PAVN/VC soldiers were killed and 2,000 captured / In 1970 the division took a defensive posture while US troops withdrawals continued from Vietnam / On 29 April 1971 the bulk of the division was withdrawn to Fort Hood, Texas, but its 3rd Brigade remained as one of the final two major US ground combat units in Vietnam, departing 29 June 1972 / In the Vietnam War, the 1st Air Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CONIGLIO

THOMAS V.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Thomas V. Coniglio honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas V. Coniglio passed away on 25 March 2024 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONKLIN**

**RONALD R.**

**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



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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 returned to the U.S. in mid-1970 / The unit and its component line companies were awarded the Presidential



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Unit Citation, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Award, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Vietnam Civic Action Award First Class

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

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by 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 National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONNORS**

**JAMES J.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James J. Connors honorably served in the United States Navy for 4 years

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Connors graduated from Bishop Timon St. Jude / Connors earned a Bachelor of Sciences Degree / James Connors retired after a career with the Erie County Water Authority / Connors was a member of the Cursillo Movement and the American Legion / James Connors moved to Daytona Beach, Florida after retirement / James J. Connors passed away on 3 December 2024 at the age of 82 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONNORS**

**MICHAEL A.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael A. Connors honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

As a young man, Michael Connors sailed with the Merchant Marine

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Upon his Honorable Discharge from the US Army, Michael Connors worked as an Erie County Attorney and head of Labor Relations before retiring / After retirement, Connors worked for Kaleida Heath as an Internal General Counsel / Michael A. Connors passed on 31 July 2018 at the age of 85 years old

The United States Merchant Marine (USMM) is an organization composed of U.S. civilian mariners and merchant vessels / It is managed by the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration and includes privately-owned and federally owned, U.S.-registered merchant ships that provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargo in domestic and international commerce / Some of these ships may also be called into military service



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONNORS**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Connors retired from the Veterans Administration

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CONNORS

PAUL J.

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Paul J. Connors honorably served in the United States Navy / Paul Connors served in the U.S. Submarine Service sailing to many world ports

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Connors was a graduate of McKinley High School and Erie Community College / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Paul Connors was employed by General Motors, retiring in 1999 after 37 years of service / Connors was a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and Mercy Hospital of Buffalo / Paul J. Connors passed away on 25 February 2025 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CONROY

JOSEPH

C.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone    Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Joseph C. Conroy honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Conroy graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1961 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Conroy went to work for Bethlehem Steel, retiring after many years of work / Joseph C. Conroy passed away on 16 November 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONSTANTINO**

**ERIC**

**R.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** **MARINE CORPS**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Eric Russel Constantino honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and saw a year of combat duty in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Eric Constantino graduated from Grover Cleveland High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps, Constantino went to work for the United States Postal Service / Constantino joined the City of Buffalo Fire Fighters, Ladder 9 and served for twenty years from 1979 through 2000 / Eric Russel Constantino passed away in Largo, Florida on 4 February 2023 at the age of 74 years old / Eric Constantino is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CONTA**

**ROBERT A.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert A. Conta honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert A. Conta passed away on 26 June 2022 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Saint Stephens Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CONTI

JOHN

C.

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSG

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant John C. Conti honorably served in the United States Army / SSG John Conti was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John C. Conti passed away on 16 April 2025 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CONWALL  
JAMES

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James Conwell honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, James Conwall was employed by the United States Post Office for over 40 years / James "Jim" Conwall passed away on 18 April 2024 at the age of 79 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COOK**

**GARY**

**L.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Gary L. Cook honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / After completing his Marine Corps obligation, Gary Cook also honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Cook graduated Orchard Park High School in 1968 / Gary L. Cook passed away on 20 February 2026 at the age of 75 years old

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 / The 101st Airborne was allotted to the Regular Army in June 1948 and reactivated as a training unit at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky the following July, only to be inactivated the next year / It was reactivated in 1950 following the outbreak of the Korean War, again to serve as a Training Center at Camp Breckenridge until inactivated in December 1953 / 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



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COOK**  
**GREGORY**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Gregory Cook honorably served in the United States Military / Gregory Cook was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COOK**

**TIMOTHY J.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Timothy J. Cook honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Timothy J. Cook passed away on 28 December 2024 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Nativity Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CORBETT

MARK

C.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE 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 VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 97



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CORBRAN**  
**PAUL**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Paul Corbran honorably served in the United States Air Force / Paul Corbran was assigned as a Military Policeman while stationed at Bentwaters Air Force Base in England

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Corbran was an Union Ironworker for Local #6 in Buffalo for over 30 years / Paul Corbran passed away on 14 December 2022

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CORDES**

**JOHN**

**W.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John William Cordes honorably served in the United States Air Force Reserves

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John William Cordes passed away on 13 January 2025 at the age of 80 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COREY

JAMES E.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

James E. Corey honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Cory was a member of the National Association of Postal Supervisors / James E. Corey passed away on 1 March 2023



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CORKINS**  
**KENNETH**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Kenneth Corkins honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth Corkins passed away on 18 December 2025 at the age of 76 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CORNELL

RICHARD F.

**Hometown:** SOUTH BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Richard F. Cornell honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard F. Cornell passed away on 14 April 2024 at the age of 72 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CORSON

JOHN

H.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 235 NEWFIELD STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Richard P. Corson honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Corson was stationed in Germany

The brother of John H. Corson, Army Private First-Class Richard P. 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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CORSON

RICHARD P.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 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 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



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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 during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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

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 /



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COSNYKA**  
**RICHARD**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard Cosnyka honorably served in the United States Military / Richard Cosnyka was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COSTANZO, JR.**  
**FRANK**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Frank Costanzo, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / Frank Costanzo was deployed twice to Vietnam from 1967 through 1969

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Costanzo, Jr. passed away on 6 April 2023 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Saint Stephens Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COTTER**

**DANIEL E.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1960

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

**Medals / Citations:**

MARINE CORPS GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Daniel Edward Cotter honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Daniel Cotter was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and assigned as a Radio Telegraph Operator

LCPL Daniel Cotter was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 5 February 1960, with reserve obligations ending 6 February 1963

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel Cotter was born in the Bronx, New York City, New York / Daniel Cotter worked at Worthington Compressor for over 27 years before taking a job at Dupont as a Tedlar Division Specialist, retiring in 2003 / Cotter was a member and Captain of the West Seneca Auxiliary Police for 40 years / Daniel Cotter was a member and former Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Detachment 239 / Daniel Edward Cotter passed away on 13 April 2025 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca

A Radio Telegraph Operator operates and keeps in repair equipment used in radiotelegraph communications /



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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 2nd Marine Division (2nd MARDIV) is a division of the United States Marine Corps, which forms the ground combat element of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MEF) / The division is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina / During World War II, the 2nd Marine Division (Headquarters) participated in operations in the Pacific Theater of Operations: the Guadalcanal Campaign, in the Solomon Islands campaign, the Battle of Tarawa, the Gilbert Islands campaign, the Battle of Saipan, the Battle of Tinian and the Battle of Okinawa / The Division didn't take part in a major action again until 1958 when elements participated in the U.S. intervention into the Lebanon crisis of 1958 / 2nd Marine Division units helped to reinforce Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and landed in the Dominican Republic in 1965 as part of Operation Power Pack / Other peacekeeping operations carried on by the Division include being part of the Multi National Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon from August 1982 until February 1984 / The Division suffered the loss of 238 Marines and Sailors during the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, plus 3 U.S. Army personnel attached to the unit

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COUGHENOUR**

**JOHN E.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH BATTALION, 76TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 5th Class John Edward Coughenour honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 John Coughenour was deployed for 13 months with the US Armed Services Pacific in Korea as a General Vehicle Repairman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John E. Coughenour received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army on 21 March 1968 / John Edward Coughenour passed away in March 2018

The 76th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army / First formed as a cavalry regiment in 1916, the regiment was converted to field artillery in 1917, and served in Europe during World War I with the 3rd Division and as a separate battalion during World War II, as well as in peacetime at Fort Knox, KY, and Fort Devens, MA / Since 1959, the regiment has been a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System and the U.S. Army Regimental System, with regimental elements serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea, and in the Army Reserve

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,



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Town of West Seneca, New York

sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COUGHLIN**

**WILLIAM R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO

**Year Entered:** 1962

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer William R. Coughlin honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COUHIG**

**DENNIS**

**M.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RS

**Year Entered:** 1959

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Retail Service Specialist (RS) Dennis M. Couhig honorably served in the United States Navy / RS Dennis Couhig was stationed on the USS Newport News, a Des Moines class Heavy Cruiser, for 3 years active sea duty service

Dennis M. Couhig was honorably discharged as 3rd Class Petty Officer on 2 May 1963 at Naval Reserve Manpower Center, Bainbridge, MD with reserve obligations ending 16 September 1965

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Dennis Couhig worked for Erie County Sheriff's Department / Dennis M. Couhig passed away on 4 January 2025 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

A Retail Services Specialist (RS) is a rating in the United States Navy / RSeS are responsible for managing and operating all shipboard retail and service activities, including the ship's store, vending machines, coffee kiosks (on aircraft carriers), barber shops, and laundry operations

USS Newport News (CA-148) was the third and last ship of the Des Moines-class of heavy cruisers in the United States Navy / She was the first fully air-conditioned surface ship and the last active all-gun heavy cruiser in the United States Navy / Newport News was commissioned on 29 January 1949 and deployed to the Mediterranean from 1950 to 1961 for duty with the Sixth Fleet, and she participated in major fleet exercises and midshipman training cruises in the Caribbean and Western Atlantic / In August 1962, she participated in NATO Exercise RIPTIDE III, and upon the end of the exercise, made a month-long tour of Northern European ports as flagship of



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the Commander Striking Fleet Atlantic (COMSTRIKFLTLANT), the NATO role of the Commander of the Second Fleet / Operations from 1963 through 1967 consisted primarily of NATO exercises in the North Atlantic, gunnery and amphibious exercises off the Eastern seaboard and Caribbean, and midshipman cruises / When the Dominican Republic crisis of 1965 developed, Newport News sortied from Norfolk on 29 April 1965 for Santo Domingo, where she was flagship for Commander Joint Task Force 122 / Newport News remained on station off Santo Domingo until 7 May 1965 / In September 1967, the Newport News departed Norfolk for a six-month deployment to Southeast Asia / Arriving in Da Nang, South Vietnam, on the morning of 9 October 1967, she became the flagship of ComCruDesFlot 3 (Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Three) / That night, at 2300, she fired her eight-inch guns for the first time against shore targets in North Vietnam as part of Operation Sea Dragon / The Newport News spent 50 days patrolling the coast of North Vietnam as part of Operation Sea Dragon, the Navy's effort to destroy waterborne logistics craft, military supply routes and installations in North Vietnam / During this period, the ship conducted 156 strikes with 325 North Vietnamese coastal defense sites taken under fire / According to spotters, Newport News sank 17 waterborne logistics craft, damaged another 14 and destroyed several enemy bunkers and radar sites, bridges, barges, trucks and roads / The ship was subjected to return fire on several occasions, but each time countered enemy batteries / On 19 December 1967, Newport News exchanged fire with 20–28 separate shore batteries, simultaneously, off the coast of North Vietnam / During this engagement, over 300 enemy rounds bracketed the cruiser's position, but she suffered no direct hits / This encounter led to forward observers to nickname Newport News "The Gray Ghost from the East Coast," a moniker she retained throughout her three Vietnam deployments / Subsequent to the end of Operation Sea Dragon and for the remaining several months of this deployment, Newport News participated in Naval Gunfire Support operations near the DMZ supporting the Third Marine Division forces on the coastal area, firing around the clock for periods sometimes lasting several weeks / During this deployment, Newport News expended 59,241 rounds of high-explosive ammunition, while conducting 239 observed and 602 unobserved missions / She came under fire of enemy coastal defense batteries on seventeen separate occasions, hit by shrapnel but never suffered a direct hit / The Newport News departed Subic Bay on 21 April and arrived at her homeport of Norfolk, Virginia, on 13 May 1968 / In May 1972, Newport News returned for her third and final Vietnam combat tour / Along with the guided missile cruisers USS Oklahoma City and USS Providence, as well as several screening destroyers, the ship took part in a high-speed night bombardment of Haiphong harbor known as Operation Custom Tailor / Along with 64 other aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and supply ships of the Seventh Fleet, the mission of the biggest armada organized since World War II, was to prevent North Vietnamese supplies from getting to South Vietnam / On 27 August 1972, Newport News, USS Providence, USS Robison and USS Rowan made a night raid into Haiphong Harbor shelling the port area from a distance of 2 miles / After leaving the harbor two Vietnam People's Navy torpedo boats engaged the ships 27 miles southeast of Haiphong with one sunk by the Newport News and the other set on fire by the Rowan and then sunk by a Navy A-7 jet / At 1 a.m. on 1 October 1972, while in action off the Demilitarized Zone, Newport News sustained an in-bore explosion in her center 8-inch gun of number two turret / A total of 20 sailors were killed and another 36 suffered serious injuries from toxic gas inhalation / The barrel proper was blown forward from the gun /After making its way to Subic Bay in the Philippines, the ship was out of commission for several weeks as its damaged gun was removed and its port plated over / The explosion had caused extensive damage to the center gun mount / It was proposed to replace the damaged mount with one from sister ships Des Moines (CA-134) or Salem (CA-139), both of which had been decommissioned, but this was rejected as being too expensive / As a result, the damage was not repaired and the turret was simply closed off for the remainder of the ship's career / Operations near Vietnam resumed 21 October and continued until December 1972 when the ship was recalled to Norfolk / Newport News was decommissioned on 27 June 1975 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on



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31 July 1978 / She spent her later years as a member of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard's Mothball Fleet and was sold for scrap in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 25 February 1993 / The museum ship, USS Salem in Quincy, Massachusetts contains her bell and other items dedicated to Newport News and her crew



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **COVERT  
LAWRENCE**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lawrence Covert honorably served in the United States Military / Lawrence Covert was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** COX, JR.

C.

C.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** TSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY MEDAL (5)

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (5)

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

**Service Notes:**

Technical Sergeant C. C. Cox, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force for 20 years active duty / TSgt. Cox was deployed to Okinawa, Japan for two years as an Administration Supervisor

TSgt. C. C. Cox was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 31 May 1975 at Harve Montana Air Force Station

**Base Assignments:**

Havre Air Force Station is a formerly used Defense Site that was used as a Cold War general surveillance radar station / In late 1951 Air Defense Command selected Simpson, Montana as a site for one of twenty-eight radar stations built as part of the second segment of the permanent radar surveillance network / Havre AFS closed on 1 July 1979

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, C. C. Cox became a Pastor, serving his community until his passing / Emeritus C. C. Cox, Jr. passed away on 13 January 2025 at the age of 88 years old

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



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Active, Air Force Reserve, or Air National Guard service / The Air Force Longevity Service Award is a ribbon-only award

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CRACI**

**LIBORIO J.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Liborio J. Graci honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Liborio J. Graci passed away on 4 April 2025 at the age of 85 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CRAGE

TERRANCE E.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Terrance E. Crage honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Terrance E. Crage was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Terrance E. Crage passed away on 22 June 2022 at the age of 53 years old and is interred at the Bath National Cemetery, Bath, New York

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

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

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



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

**Name:** **CRAMER**

**CLAYTON**

**A.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Clayton A. Cramer honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

The brother of Sergeant Clayton Cramer, Paul J. Cramer, honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CRAMER**

**PAUL**

**J.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Paul J. Cramer honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of Paul Cramer, Sergeant Clayton A. Cramer, honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the US Navy, Paul Cramer joined the Cheektowaga Police Department and retired as a patrolman / Paul J. Cramer passed away on 30 July 2022 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, NY



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CRANCE**

**ROBERT C.**

**Hometown:** EDEN

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

82ND AIRBORNE

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert C. Crance honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Crance retired from the South Buffalo Railway / Crance was the owner of Crance's Superette in Langford, New York for many years / Robert C. Crance passed away on 11 April 2025 at the age of 89 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CRAPO

DONALD

M.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Donald M. Crapo honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald M. Crapo passed away on 5 December 2024 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CRAVEN**  
**CHARLES**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Charles Craven honorably served in the United States Military / Charles Craven was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CREAN**

**THOMAS**

**R.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas Robert Crean honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Crean was a Certified Pilot / Crean retired in 2016 as a Sales Engineer from Penn Power Systems / Thomas Robert Crean passed away on 12 April 2023 and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CRISP**

**CHARLES E.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (HAND GRENADE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Charles E. Crisp honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Charles Crisp was assigned as an Equipment Storage Specialist during his deployment to Okinawa for two years

SP4 Charles Crisp was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 14 January 1974

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles E. Crisp passed away on 31 May 2018

An Equipment Storage Specialist establishes and maintains stock records and other documents such as inventory, materiel control, accounting and supply reports; establishes and maintains automated and manual accounting records, posts receipts and turn-ins, and performs dues-ins and dues-outs accounting; operates materiel handling equipment (MHE); performs property disposal storage functions; ensures application of special procedures for handling, storing, packaging and shipping retrograde material; retrieves and analyzes history and activity files pertinent to system rejected documents; recommends additions and deletions to authorized stockage list; maintains accounting records of property disposal activity; determines current and projected repair requirements; directs lateral redistribution of stock

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



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CRITOPH**  
**DON** **R.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Don R. Critoph honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Don Critoph was a 1963 graduate of Amherst High School and graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1982 with a Bachelor Of Science in Mechanical Engineering / Critoph worked in the Aerospace Industry / Don R. Critoph passed away on 12 March 2024 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CROMBIE

GARY

D.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Gary D. Crombie honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Crombie was a retiree of American Axle / Gary D. Crombie passed away on 26 August 2023 at the age of 73 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CROSBY, JR.

BRUCE A.

**Hometown:** SPRINGVILLE

**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



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## *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

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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CROSTA  
LEO

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Leo Crosta honorably served in the United States Military / Leo Crosta was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CRUM**

**RAYMOND L.**

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Raymond L. Crum honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond L. Crum passed away on 2 March 2024 at the age of 70 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CRUSAN

RICHARD

B.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard B. Crusan honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Crusan retired from the Catholic Health System / Richard B. Crusan passed away on 13 May 2025 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CSATI

MICHAEL W.

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** MSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Master Sergeant Michael W. Csati honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam for two tours / Msgt Csati also served 13 months in Iceland / Csati was assigned to the 107th Division at the Niagara Falls Air Base / In addition to receiving many military citations, Msgt Csati received an accommodation from President Carter

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Csati worked for 24 years at Buffalo General Hospital / Michael W. Csati passed away on 29 July 2022 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CULLINAN, JR.

RAYMOND L.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Raymond T. Cullinan, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond Cullinan was a retired Police Detective with the Buffalo Police Department / Raymond T. Cullinan, Jr. passed away on 8 July 2025 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CULVER**

**ROBERT O.**

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** EM3

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Electricians Mate Third-Class Robert O. Culver honorably served in the United States Navy / EM3 Robert Culver served 13 months of sea service aboard the USS Lake Champlain (CVA-39), an Essex-class Aircraft Carrier

Robert Culver received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy on 7 May 1956

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert O. Culver passed away on 4 November 2025 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at Forest Avenue Cemetery, Angola, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CUMMINGS

JAMES E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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



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

## *Miscellaneous:*

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 Solomon Islands campaign, the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign, and the Battle of Okinawa, during World



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CUMMINGS, JR.

TIMOTHY J.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Timothy Joseph Cummings, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Timothy Cummings was employed for 50 years by the Asbestos Workers Local No 4 / Timothy Joseph Cummings, Jr. passed away on 27 February 2025 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CUNNINGHAM**

**CLARENCE B.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**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 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 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



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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 Division / The regimental headquarters arrived in South Vietnam on 26 April 1967 / In mid-May 1967, following



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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CUNNINGHAM

ROBERT M.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Robert M. Cunningham honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Cunningham retired from the Buffalo Sewer Authority / Robert M. Cunningham passed away on 27 November 2025



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CURRIE, SR.

JOSEPH N.

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

119TH PETRO STORAGE COMPANY, 5TH ARMY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 60 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Joseph N. Currie, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Currie was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months and 20 days and was trained as a Power Plant Operator

Joseph Currie was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 9 January 1968 with reserve obligation concluding 9 January 1972

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Carson, Colorado - Fort Carson is a United States Army post located directly south of Colorado Springs in El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, and Huerfano counties, Colorado / Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / The 89th Infantry Division was the first major unit to be activated at Camp Carson / During World War II, over 100,000 soldiers trained at Camp Carson. Along with three other infantry divisions: the 71st Infantry Division, 104th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division / More than 125 units were activated at Camp Carson and more than 100 others were transferred to the mountain post from other installations / Camp Carson was designated Fort Carson in 1954 / In the 1960s, mechanized units were assigned to the fort and it was expanded to the 137,000 acres / Throughout its history Fort Carson has been used for large force-on-force maneuver training / Comprehensive maneuver and live fire training also occurs downrange at Fort Carson / Exercises and deployments continually hone the skills of Fort Carson soldiers / In 2003, most Fort Carson units were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom / Troops from the 984th Military Police CO, 759th Military Police Battalion were also sent in support of the guard mission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

Joseph Nicholas Currie, Sr. passed away on 30 September 2024 at the age of 78 and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

Power Plant Operations Mechanic supervises electric power plant and auxiliary systems equipment / Operates and maintains electrical power plants; performs mechanical, electrical and instrumentation functions necessary to install and prepare power station equipment for initial startup; analyze plant equipment and system operating characteristics to determine operational condition; perform electrical assessments of electrical distribution systems and facilities; repair or overhauls generating equipment and associated systems components; supervise the installation, operation or maintenance of prime power plants, associated systems, equipment and soldiers; direct preparation of power plant equipment for movement, storage and installation; serve as technical inspector to determine faulty operation maintenance practices; determines and isolates complex malfunctions, utilizing diagnostic tests, and troubleshooting techniques; supervise electrical assessments of electrical distribution systems and facilities

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CURRIN

R.

K.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

R. Kenneth Currin honorably served in the United States Military / R. Kenneth Currin was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CURRY**  
**MARVIN**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Marvin Curry honorably served in the United States Navy

The brother of Marvin Curry, Army Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr., 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 / Another brother of Marvin Curry, Richard Curry, also served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CURRY**  
**RICHARD**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard Curry honorably served in the United States Navy

The brother of Richard Curry, Army Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr., 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 / Another brother of Richard Curry, Marvin Curry, also served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CURRY, JR.**  
**WILBUR**

**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



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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 and Vietnam Era Veterans



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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.



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CURTIN  
PATRICK

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Patrick Curtin honorably served in the United States Army and assigned to the Special Forces

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Patrick Curtin graduated from Buffalo Elementary School #29 / Curtin graduated from South Park High School in 1966 / Patrick Curtin is a member of American Legion Post 735 and past Color Guard Captain



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CURTIS

PETER

S.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** 1LT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

First Lieutenant Peter Stewart Curtis honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter Stewart received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bucknell University and a Masters Degree and an ABD (All but dissertation) from the State University at Buffalo in the Political Science Department / Peter Stewart was the Assistant Commissioner, Policy and Planning in the Erie County Department of Mental Health for 25 years, working in children's mental health services / Peter Stewart Curtis passed away on 2 May 2025 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CURTISS

ROBERT J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** UTA3

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (MCB) FIVE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT OPERATIONS INSIGNIA

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Utilitiesman (Air Conditioning) Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert John Curtiss honorably served in the United States Navy with the Seabees as a Refrigeration Mechanic

**Base Assignments:**

Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam - Naval Support Activity Danang or NSA Danang was a United States Navy logistics support organization located in Danang, South Vietnam active from October 1965 to April 1972 / The logistic establishment at Danang functioned with growing efficiency by mid-1968 as it built new port and shore facilities / Seabees, initially using materials pre-stocked before the war in Advanced Base Functional Component packages, constructed three deep-draft piers for oceangoing ships, two 300 feet wooden piers an Landing Ship, Tank (LST) causeway and the Bridge Cargo Complex that consisted of a 1,600 feet long wharf, 300,000 cubic feet of refrigerated storage space and 500,000 square feet of covered storage space / Amphibious fuel lines were laid along the sea floor to storage tanks ashore at Red Beach Base Area, north of the city and the Marines' Marble Mountain Air Facility to the south / In April 1972 all US Navy facilities in Danang were transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Navy

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Curtiss was a member and past Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

Naval Construction Battalion 5 was commissioned on 25 May 1942 at Camp Allen Virginia / The battalion went to Port Hueneme and shipped out for the first of two deployments in the Pacific during World War II / When the war ended CB 5 was decommissioned in the Philippines / On 10 July 1951 the Battalion was re-commissioned as



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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a Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) / From 1965 to 1972, NMCB FIVE made six consecutive deployments to Vietnam / NMCB 5 was the last battalion to deploy to Vietnam March to November 1971 / The battalion had numerous incidents with mines on that deployment / In 1972, the battalion moved all its troops and equipment to Thailand and aided in the construction of Nam Phong Air Base / While in Vietnam, NMCB Five was awarded 3 Navy Unit Commendations and 3 Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations

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The Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation Insignia (also known as a globe device) is a bronze award device that signifies participation in specific campaigns as designated by the Secretary of the Navy / They are commonly awarded to hospital corpsmen, chaplains, and other non-combat roles who have done their duty in a combat zone



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CUSACK**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael Cusack honorably served in the United States Military / Michael Cusack was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CYCON**

**TERRY C.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST BATTALION, 127TH ARMOR REGIMENT, 42ND INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL (4)

AIR MEDAL (2)

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (AUTOMATIC RIFLE )

NCO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIBBON

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (PISTOL)

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Terry C. Cycon honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT Terry Cycon was deployed to Vietnam and assigned as a NBC NCO and an Intelligence Analyst

SSGT Cycon served in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve from 1983-2001, compiling a total of 24 years of military service to our country

Staff Sergeant Terry Cycon was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve on 17 May 2001

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Terry Cycon was a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) / Terry C. Cycon passed away on 24 August 2022 at the age of 75 years old

The NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) NCO supervises smoke generator and fuel supply squad, computes and plots NBC data, supervises reconnaissance and decontamination squads, serves as NBC NCO in battalion or squadron headquarters authorized a chemical branch officer, or as company NBC NCO in a separate company or



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in organic companies of combat service support battalions / Primarily responsible for advising the commander and subordinate units on all aspects of NBC warfare including the employment of NBC assets as well as tactics, techniques and procedures for training, equipment readiness and logistics

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 127th Armor Regiment (Buffalo City Guards) was an infantry, later armored regiment of the New York Army National Guard which was formed in 1838, but disbanded 2006 as part of the Modular reorganization of the United States Army / The regiment saw service during the Civil War and later volunteered for service during the First and Second World Wars, seeing long and distinguished service in each / The regiment's lineage is continued by the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, which is the direct successor to the regiment when it was converted to a light cavalry unit in 2006

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

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / The Army Reserve is meant to augment the needs of the active-duty force in times of conflict or declared war / Army Reserve soldiers can complete part-time service alongside civilian life / The U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) is responsible for all of the operational tasks involved in training, equipping, managing, supporting, mobilizing and retaining Soldiers under its command

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

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

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

The Cold War Service Medal Act authorizes a service medal for those in the military between September 1945 and December 1991 who served on active duty for 24 consecutive months during the Cold War; were deployed



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outside of the continental U.S. for a period of at least 30 days during the Cold War; or were a member of a reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold War

The Army Achievement Medal (AAM) is the lesser of the U.S. military's meritorious service medals and was first introduced as a means to recognize the contributions of enlisted personnel and junior officers who were not qualified to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / Additional awards are denoted by oak leaf clusters

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 Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Professional Development Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Army on 10 April 1981 / The ribbon is awarded to members of the U.S. Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve who have successfully completed designated NCO professional development courses / To indicate completion of specific levels of the courses, a bronze numeral is affixed to the center of the ribbon / When additional courses are completed, a bronze numeral is worn on the service ribbon to denote the number of courses completed

The Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon (PHRPU) is awarded to certain units of the Armed Forces of the United States in recognition of participation in the war against the Japanese Empire during the periods of 7 December 1941 and 10 May 1942, inclusive, and 17 October 1944 to 4 July 1945, inclusive / The ribbon bar consists of equal portions of red, white, and blue encased in a gilt frame decorated with palm leaves / When worn on the Philippine military uniform, it is a blue, white, and red ribbon 1 3/8 inches (35 mm) wide surrounded by a gold frame, and no ribbon devices are authorized for wear with this award / The Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for disaster relief operations was bestowed on: The Philippine military and the U.S. Navy Disaster Task Force (September 1 to December 14, 1970) and Navy and Marine Corps Units of Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, Philippines Amphibious Ready Group Alpha (October 21–26, 1970) for relief efforts during several natural disasters which occurred in the Philippines during August 1 to December 15, 1970 (a series of typhoons) and from July 21 to August 15, 1972 (monsoon rains and associated floods)

Staff Sergeant Terry C Cycon 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 (Awarded twice)



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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

## ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

The Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal was created and authorized in march of 1971 to be a good conduct medal for the Reserve units / As it was one of the last medals to be created by DA General Order 4, much of the armed forces felt that the Reserve units needed their own equivalent / Much like the others, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal represents honest and faithful service according to standards for a set period of years / It applies to soldiers " who are ordered to active duty in the AGR program will be awarded the ARCAM if they have completed 2 of the 3 years required (Good Conduct Medal eligibility starts on the effective date of the AGR order)"

## HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

The Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM) is a military service medal of the United States Armed Forces which was created on January 19, 1977 by President Gerald Ford under Executive Order 11965 / The medal may be awarded to members of the United States military (including Reserve and National Guard members) who distinguish themselves by meritorious participation in specified military acts or operations of a humanitarian nature

## ARMED FORCE RESERVE MEDAL

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces that has existed since 1950 / The medal recognizes service performed by members of the reserve components and is awarded to both officers and enlisted personnel / The medal is considered a successor award to the Naval Reserve Medal and the Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon, which were discontinued in 1958 and 1967, respectively / If the medal is awarded for periods of service, it is accompanied by an hourglass device / Depending on the length of service, a bronze, silver, gold, or bronze and gold hourglass are worn on the suspension ribbon and service ribbon, indicating 10, 20, 30, or 40 years of service, respectively

## ARMY AIRCRAFT CREWMAN BADGE

The Army Aircraft Crewman Badge is a qualification badge awarded to personnel who serve as aircrew members on board military aircraft / It is also known as the Aircrew Badge or Wings / The Army Aviation Senior Crewmember Badge is awarded upon successful completion of seven years in flight status or 10 years of non-flight experience in a principal duty assignment for designated specialties to Soldiers who have attained the rank of E-4 or higher



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CYMBROWSKI**  
**STANLEY**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Stanley Cymbrowski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **CYMERMAN**

**ROGER R.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Roger A. Cymerman honorably served in the Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger Cymerman was a graduate of Iroquois High School and Erie Community College (SUNY) / Cymerman was a lifelong industrial salesman in Buffalo / Roger A. Cymerman passed away on 11 October 2025 at the age of 75 years old

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CZAPLA

ANDREW J.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-8

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Senior Chief Petty Officer Andrew J. Czapla honorably served in the United States Navy, retiring after thirty years of service

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Andrew J. Czapla passed away on 6 August 2023 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CZOSNYKA

RICHARD J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Richard Joseph Czosnyka honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Richard Czosnyka was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Joseph Czosnyka passed away on 15 April 2024 at the age of 79 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CZUBA  
EDWARD

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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