



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JABLINSKI**
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 Jablinski honorably served in the United States Military / John Jablinski was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JABLONSKI**

JAMES

G.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

James G. Jablonski honorably served in the United States Air Force / James Jablonski was deployed to Vietnam as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic / Jablonski was stationed in Vietnam for one year and six months

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James G. Jablonski passed away on 16 August 2024 at the age of 75 years old

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

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: JACKOWIAK

HENRY P.

Hometown: ANGOLA

Address: 8944 LAKESHORE ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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:

Corporal Henry Patrick Jackowiak honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Henry Jackowiak was deployed to Vietnam as a Field Radio Operator / CPL Henry Jackowiak was Killed In Action on 26 September 1967 as a result of enemy artillery fire in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:



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Henry Jackowiak attended St. Francis High School and graduated from Lake Shore Central High School before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in May 1966 / Henry Patrick Jackowiak was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Henry Patrick Jackowiak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 27e, Line 17

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

9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) was a United States Marine Corps unit / Following the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in August 1964, the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was activated / It consisted of 9th Marine Regiment regimental headquarters and three battalion landing teams (BLT) / Almost 6,000 men were transformed into an effective force in readiness / The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (9th MEB) was deactivated on 6 May 1965 and reactivated on 1 March 1966 as 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (9th MAB) on Okinawa, Japan and landed in Vietnam on 8 March 1965 / the 9th MAB participated in Operation Osage in South Vietnam between 27 April and 3 May 1966 / The 9th MAB was assigned to the mission of destroying a VC battalion and elements of a People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) regiment reported to be operating in Thua Thien-Hue Province / The 9th MAB provided Battalion Landing Team (BLT) of 1st Battalion, 26th Marines for Operation Deckhouse IV from 15–18 September 1966 / The 9th MAB's Marines killed over 200 PAVN soldiers from 90th Regiment with the loss of 36 Marines / During the rest of the year, the 9th MAB and its units were stationed off the northern coast of South Vietnam in order to provide force for the defense of Vietnam Demilitarized Zone in case of emergency / The 9th MAB launched the Operation Deckhouse VI on 16 February 1967 in order to disrupt enemy movement in the vicinity of Sa Huynh salt flats, search northward in the Nui Dat area, and, finally, link up with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, then operating around Nui Dat in Operation Desoto / The 9th MAB took part in the Operation Beaver Cage between 28 April and 13 May 1967 and Operation Dewey Canyon / In 1969, it was announced that the regiment would be part of the 25,000 man withdrawal from Vietnam, ending more than four years of combat actions in Vietnam for the 9th Marines

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



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was sent back to Vietnam on 18 November 1965 / In 1969, the United States began to slowly withdraw combat units from Southeast Asia / One of the first Marine units to be notified to commence stand down operations was 1st Battalion, 3d Marines / The unit departed South Vietnam for the United States on 5 October 1969 / Towards the end of the month the battalion arrived in California and was located at again at Camp Pendleton

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

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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



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Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JACKSON

WILLIAM G.

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:**

Service Notes:

William G. Jackson honorably served in the United States Military / William Jackson was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JACKSON, JR.

SANFORD L.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1955

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY, C COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Sanford Levon Jackson, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Sanford Jackson was deployed to Vietnam on 4 January 1966 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SP4 Sanford Jackson was Killed In Action on 15 August 1966 from wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations around Hill 534 Chu Pong Massif, Pleiku Province, South Vietnam

During Operation Paul Revere II, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, had a continuing mission, beginning in May 1966, to interdict infiltration and supply routes in the Pleiku and Kontum Provinces / The Operation ended at the battle of Hill 534, on the southern portion of Chu Pong Massif near the Cambodian Border / Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, while pursuing a group of Viet Cong on foot, ran into a North Vietnamese battalion in prepared, bunkered positions / Company B, 2/5, while attempting to link up with Alpha Company, began slugging it out with enemy troops, likewise in well-defended positions / As the size of the fortification became known, additional companies were committed until two battalions of Skytroopers were positioned around the enemy / The fierce, close-in fighting continued throughout the night of August 14th and well into the morning of the 15th / When it was over, a total of 138 NVA dead were counted on the slope of Hill 534 / The 5th Cavalry Regiment also paid a high price at the battle on Hill 534, suffering 17 killed / The dead included SSGT Laurie L. Alexander, PFC Henry Butler, 2LT Edward J. Dalton Jr., SP4 Jeffrey B. Wagman, PFC Richard A. Waltman, SP4 Fred Brown Jr., SGT Wayland Dunn Jr., SP4 Sanford L. Jackson Jr., SP4 James T. Langlois, SGT James R. Morley, PFC Donald L. Summers, PFC Fred L. Thomas, PFC James E. Phillips, SSGT William M. Croy, SP4 Caney Green, FSGT



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Kenneth Hawsey, and MAJ William E. Taylor.

SP4 Sanford Jackson, Jr. was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry displayed during combat with enemy forces

SP4 Sanford Jackson joined the United States Air Force in 1955 and was Honorably Discharged in 1959 / In 1960 SP4 Jackson enlisted in the United States Army / Jackson was stationed in the Dominican Republic prior to being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Sanford Jackson was born in Alabama and moved to Buffalo in 1959 / Jackson joined the U.S. Air Force in 1955 / Sanford Levon Jackson, Jr. was 30 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo

Sanford Levon Jackson, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10e, Line 9

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

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

The 5th Cavalry Regiment ("Black Knights") is a historical unit of the United States Army that began its service on 3 August 1861, when an act of Congress enacted "that the two regiments of dragoons, the regiment of mounted riflemen, and the two regiments of cavalry shall hereafter be known and recognized, as the first, second, third,



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fourth, and fifth regiments of cavalry respectively and continues in modified organizational format in the U.S. Army / On 3 March 1855, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (later to be known as the 5th Cavalry Regiment) was activated in Louisville, Kentucky with troopers drawn from the states of Alabama, Maryland, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia / On 9 April 1865, the 5th Cavalry was selected to serve as the Union Honor Guard for the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse / During World War II, the 5th Cavalry fought in the battles of Los Negros, Leyte, and Luzon / After the surrender of Japanese forces, the 5th Cavalry was part of the occupation forces / The 5th Cavalry Regiment saw action in Korea during the Korean War and left the country on 7 December 1951 after 549 days of constant combat / During the Vietnam War, the 5th Cavalry Regiment was deployed to Vietnam in September 1965 / In Vietnam, 5th Cavalry units participated in twelve campaigns, including Operation Thayer, Operation Pershing, Operation Tet Offensive, Operation Jeb Stuart III, Operation Toan Thang II and Operation Cheyenne Sabre / Six 5th Cavalry Regiment Troopers received the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War / The remaining units of the 5th Cavalry regiment left Vietnam in January 1973

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

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

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



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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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Name: JACOBSON, SR.

MICHAEL J.

Hometown: BLASDELL

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. Jacobson, Sr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael J. Jacobson, Sr. passed away on 24 October 2025 at the age of 73 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JAKEL**

CRAIG J.

Hometown: EGGERTSVILLE

Address: 78 CORONATION DRIVE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP5

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fifth-Class Craig James Jakel honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Craig Jakel was deployed to Vietnam on 17 February 1970 as an Aircraft Materiel Supply Specialist / SP5 Craig Jakel died on 24 February 1971 when the aircraft he was onboard, crashed in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

SP5 Craig Jakel was killed while serving aboard helicopter UH-1D #66-16038 that was enroute to Quan Loi out of Phu Loi / The helicopter crashed on the short final approach to An Loc from about 20 feet after witnesses heard an explosion and saw a fire / They fell straight down, exploding on impact / There were 7 casualties: Thomas E Bennett - Helicopter Pilot, Steven W Goelz - Helicopter Pilot, Vernon A Green - Radio Operator, Clarence D Hakes - Helicopter Pilot, Craig J Jakel - Aircraft Materiel Supply Specialist, Michael H Keys - Helicopter Repairer and Joseph M Wilsher - Helicopter Pilot

SP5 Craig Jakel was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Craig Jakel was a graduate of Bishop Fallon High School where he was an All-Catholic tennis player / Jakel attended Erie County Community College before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1968 / Craig James Jakel was 23 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Craig James Jakel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 3

An Aircraft Materiel Supply Specialist supervises, performs, or advises on use, interchangeability, and identification of repair parts for aircraft materiel / Supervises reception, location, storage preservation, and issuance of repair parts / Analyzes aircraft repair parts activities to determine efficiency of operation; conducts aircraft repair parts on-the-job training / Supervises in development and preparation of operations information, plans maps, sketches, overlays and related data to employ supply and service organizations / Analyzes reports on supply and services support operations / Assists in appraisal of supply operations and training

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANAK**

MICHAEL R.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP-4

Year Entered: 1969

Year Discharged: 1971

Unit / Squadron:

2ND BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY REGIMENT, 199TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE
23RD INFANTRY DIVISION (AMERICAL)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 STARS

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

VIETNAMESE GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE RIBBON

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/CLUSTER

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Michael "Doc" Janak honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

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

Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas - Fort Sam Houston is a U.S. Army post known as "Fort Sam," it is named for the U.S. Senator from Texas, U.S. Representative from Tennessee, Tennessee and Texas Governor, and first President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston / The installation's missions include serving as the command headquarters for the United States Army North (formerly the Fifth United States Army), United States Army South, the Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) headquarters, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Center and School, the Fifth Recruiting Brigade, Navy Regional Recruiting, the San Antonio Military Entrance and Processing Station, and the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC)



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Long Binh, Vietnam - Long Binh Post was located on the east of Dong Nai river, northeast from Saigon (now called Ho Chi Minh City) / The base functioned as a U.S. Army base, logistics center, and major command headquarters for United States Army Vietnam (USARV) / Long Binh Post was southeast from Bien Hoa Air Base / Long Binh was also unofficially known as "Long Binh Junction, influenced by the widely used initials of then-President Lyndon B. Johnson / By mid-1967, United States Army, Vietnam (USARV), 1st Logistical Command and many other Army units dispersed in Saigon were moved to Long Binh Post to resolve centralization, security, and troop billeting issues / Long Binh Post was a sprawling logistics facility and the largest U.S. Army base in Vietnam, with a peak of 60,000 personnel in 1969 / The base was the target of several attacks, especially during Tet in 1968 as well as 1969 / The base and its facilities were handed over to the South Vietnamese army on 11 November 1972

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Chu Lai was a United States Marine Corps military base from 1965 to 1970, and a United States Army military base from 1970 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Roughly 56 miles southeast of Da Nang, the base had an airfield to supplement the major base at Da Nang / It was not named for any local geographic feature, but rather was the Chinese name of Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific / Chu Lai Base became operational on 1 June 1965 and remained in use by Marine aviation units until September 1970

Miscellaneous:

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

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



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The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANICKI**

MARK

W.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1975

Year Discharged: 1976

Unit / Squadron:

USS SAM RAYBURN (SSBN-635)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Mark Wayne Janicki honorably served in the United States Navy / Mark Janicki was trained as an Infantry Gun Crew/Seaman Specialist and served 3 months Sea Service on the submarine, USS Sam Rayburn

Mark Janicki was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on 2 April 1976

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Mark Janicki entered military service at the age of 18 years old / Mark Janicki was a member of local Labor Union #210 of Buffalo, NY, and a volunteer fireman for the Elma Fire Department / EMT Dept / Mark Wayne Janicki was tragically struck and killed by a motor vehicle on 29 June 2025 at the age of 77 years old

USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN-635) was a James Madison-class fleet ballistic missile submarine named for Sam Rayburn (1882–1961), Speaker of the United States House of Representatives (1940–1947, 1949–1953, and 1955–1961) / Sam Rayburn was commissioned on 2 December 1964 and carried the Polaris missiles and later the Poseidon missiles / In August 1965, she joined Submarine Squadron 16 and made seven deterrent patrols out of Rota, Spain / The USS Sam Rayburn was decommissioned on 31 July 1989 / Following decommissioning, ex-Sam Rayburn was converted into a moored training ship for use at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit at Goose Creek, South Carolina



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANICKI**

MATTHEW A.

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Matthew Janicki honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Matthew Janicki was a retired Operating Engineer with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local #17 / Matthew A. Janicki passed away on 17 April 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANISZESKI**

MICHAEL E.

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

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:**

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Michael E. Janiszeski honorably served in the United States Air Force / MSGT Janiszeski retired from the United States Air Force and also served in the US Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Michael Janiszeski served as a Deacon at the Winchester Community Church / Michael E. Janiszeski passed away at the age of 72 years old on 3 November 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANKOWSKI**

RONALD A.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Ronald A. Jankowski honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Jankowski retired from Dunlop Tire Corp / Ronald A. Jankowski passed away on 5 December 2025 at the age of 88 years old and his remains were donated to the UB Anatomical Program



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JANKOWSKI

STANLEY W.

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:**

Service Notes:

Stanley W. Jankowski honorably served in the United States Military / Stanley Jankowski 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: **JANOSKE**
THOMAS V.

Hometown: BLASDELL

Address: MCGURK AVENUE

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas V. Janoske honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Janoske worked in the Stockroom at Merchants Mutal Insurance Company prior to entering the Army /
Thomas V. Janoske passed away on 23 June 2021 at the age of 73 years



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANSSON**
PETER **C.**

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: (UNKNOWN)

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Peter C. Jansson honorably served in the United States Armed Forces

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter C. Jansson passed away on 28 November 2025 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JANUCHOWSKI, SR.**
DAVID

Hometown: SLOAN

Address:

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David Januchowski, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Januchowski retired from the Village of Sloan Highway Department / David Januchowski, Sr. passed away on 13 November 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JARCZEWSKI

DAVID V.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

Unit / Squadron:

1ST PLATOON, C COMPANY, 4TH/47TH BATTALION, 2ND BRIGADE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

OVERSEAS BARS (2)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant David V. Jarczewski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT David Jarczewski was deployed to Vietnam in January 1967

Before daylight on the morning of 15 May 1967, Charlie Company set out aboard a group of Tango landing craft on another search and destroy mission from a Navy barracks ship anchored somewhere along the lengthy Mekong River / This day resulted as monumental because it was Charlie Company's first major encounter with a substantial Viet Cong force / Charlie Company disembarked the Tango landing craft, 1st Platoon took the lead and Don Peterson's squad took point / They went past a low rice paddy dike about halfway across the open space towards a tree line about 100 yards out / Somehow they were without radio communication / When the Viet Cong, who were concealed in the tree line, opened up with heavy automatic fire, Peterson's squad was ordered to pull back but they did not receive the radio call / Though a number of Viet Cong were killed, Charlie Company lost one of its soldiers that day, Don Peterson, and a number of others were seriously wounded including SGT Dave Jarczewski and Carl Cortwright / Members of the squad hauled SGT Jarczewski in a poncho back to a waiting medivac Huey Helicopter / SGT David Jarczewski was hit in the shoulder and taken to the 24th Evacuation Hospital

SGT David Jarczewski was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic action under enemy fire and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered on the battlefield



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Don was shot in the chest and died immediately, Jarczewski was shot in the chest but amazingly survived

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David V. Jarczewski passed away on 16 March 2025 at the age of 78 years old

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

On 29 April 1966, the Fourth Battalion, 9th Infantry landed in Vung Tau, Vietnam / Within a few days, the "Manchus" were at Cu Chi to take their place along other elements of the "Tropic Lightning" Division in combat / Notable battalion-size operations conducted by the "Manchu" include Asheville, Wahiawa, Joliet I and II, Helemano, and Kahana I and II / While assigned to the 25th Division, the 4th Battalion received two Presidential Citations and added 12 campaign streamers to the Regimental Colors for Combat Operations in the Republic of South Vietnam / On 2 August 1972 the 4th Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 25th Infantry Division and was reassigned to Alaska with the 172nd Infantry

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

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

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



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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: **JARVIS**

RONALD H.

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: LT.

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Ronald H. Jarvis honorably served in the United States Navy and assigned to the Dental Corps at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Base Assignments:

Guantanamo Bay Naval Base (Spanish: Base Naval de la Bahía de Guantánamo), officially known as Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba - Guantanamo Bay or NSGB, (also called GTMO, pronounced Gitmo as jargon by members of the U.S. military is a United States military base located on 45 square miles of land and water[2] on the shore of Guantánamo Bay at the southeastern end of Cuba / It has been permanently leased to the United States since 1903 as a coaling station and naval base, making it the oldest overseas U.S. naval base in the world / Since 2002, the naval base has contained a military prison, for alleged unlawful combatants captured in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places during the War on Terror / The 1903 lease has no fixed expiration date, and as such it can only be ended if the US Navy decided to abandon the area or both countries agreed mutually to end the lease

Miscellaneous:

Ronald Jarvis graduated from Lackawanna High School in 1955 / Jarvis attended the University of Buffalo, receiving his Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S) in 1959 and 1963 respectively / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Ronald Jarvis attended the University of Indiana, receiving his Master of Science in Dentistry (M.S.D.) in 1965 / Jarvis was Past President of the Eighth District Dental Society, the Erie County Dental Society and the American Prosthodontic Society / Jarvis was also a past member of the teaching facility at the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry and the Eastman Dental Center in Rochester, New York / James H. Jarvis, D.D.S., M.S.D passed away on 26 May 2023 after a brief illness



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JASINSKI, SR.

THOMAS E.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Thomas E. "TJ" Jasinski, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas E. "TJ" Jasinski, Sr. was a life member of the National Association of Postal Supervisors, past director and life member of the Erie County Conservation Society, a life member of the Knights of Columbus Hamburg Council #2220, a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, a life member and past Commandant of Marine Corp League Detachment 239, and a member of the Marine Corp Heritage Foundation / Jasinski worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 37 years, retiring as acting General Supervisor of Motor Vehicle Services / Kasinski and his parents owned and operated Jasinski's Club 86 in Black Rock / Thomas E. "TJ" Jasinski, Sr. passed away on 11 May 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JAYES**

ARTHUR R.

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 R. Jayes honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Arthur R. Jayes passed away on 11 October 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: JEDNAT

ERIC

J.

Hometown: WALES

Address: 5465 WALES CREEK ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST SQUADRON, 4TH CAVALRY, B TROOP

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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 Eric John Jednat honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Eric Jednat was deployed to Vietnam on 10 August 1967 as an Armor Crewman / SP4 Eric Jednat was Killed In Action on 5 July 1968 from an enemy explosive device while on combat operations in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:



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Eric Jednat graduated from Iroquois High School in 1966 where as a wrestler, helped his team to break the national wrestling victory streak / Jednat was inducted into the U.S Army in September 1966 / Eric John Jednat was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, New York

Eric John Jednat is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 53w, Line 20

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

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

The 4th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment, whose lineage is traced back to the mid-19th century / It was one of the most effective units of the Army against American Indians on the Texas frontier / Today, the regiment exists as separate squadrons within the U.S. Army / The 1st Squadron of the 4th Cavalry's official nickname is "Quarterhorse", which alludes to its 1/4 Cav designation / The 3rd Squadron of the 4th Cavalry's official nickname is "Raiders" / Today, the "1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry" and "5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry" are parts of the 1st Infantry Division, while the "3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry" serves as part of the 25th Infantry Division / The 4th Cavalry Regiment served in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War II / 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry (1-4 Cavalry, popularly called "Quarterhorse") was assigned to be the divisional reconnaissance squadron of the 1st Infantry Division based at Di An, South Vietnam / It arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam on 7 October 1965, making it the first element of the 4th Cavalry to deploy to Vietnam / On 24 February 1966, Troop B fought a stiff skirmish with the VC and repulsed the enemy / On 30 June 1966, HQ, Troops B, C, D and C Company 2-18 Infantry engaged the VC 271st Regiment while conducting reconnaissance and managed to kill 300 VC during the seven-hour battle / Throughout the Vietnam War, the troopers of 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment participated in numerous battle and operations including; Operation Niagara, Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Williston, Operation Tucson-Delta, Operation Junction City, Operation Manhattan, Operation Shenandoah II, the Tet Offensive, and many more in numerous small villages along the Cambodia-South Vietnam border, and throughout South Vietnam / The 1st Squadron was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its heroism in Binh Long Province as well as a Valorous Unit Award for Binh Dong Province

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

case posthumously

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

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

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

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: **JEFFERS**

EDWARD L.

Hometown: **BLASDELL**

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: CMSGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

107TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, NIAGARA FALLS AIR FORCE BASE, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Chief Master Sergeant Edward L. "Skip" Jeffers honorably served in the United States Air Force / After serving his active duty commitment, CMSgt Edward Jeffers entered the Air Force Reserve on 25 September 1970, assigned to Niagara Falls Air Force Base, Niagara Falls, New York and assigned to the 107th Maintenance Squadron / In 2003 to 2008, CMSgt Jeffers participated in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan / CMSgt Edward Jeffers retired in 2008, after 38 years of dedicated service to his nation

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:

Edward L. "Skip" Jeffers passed away on 15 December 2025 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JELONEK, SR.

DONALD

B.

Hometown: DEPEW

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Donald B. Jelonek, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Jelonek was deployed to Vietnam, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald B. Jelonek, Sr. passed away on 30 November 2023 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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

The 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



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

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: JENKINS

GERARD

F.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1969

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/ 1 SERVICE STAR

OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

SMALL ARMS EXPERT RIBBON

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Gerard F. "Jerry" Jenkins honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSGT Gerard Jenkins trained as a Personnel Specialist and was deployed to Vietnam for 11 months

Staff Sergeant (E-5) Gerard "Jerry" Jenkins was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force on 18 December 1969

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerard F. "Jerry" Jenkins passed away on 4 September 2025 at the age of 80 years old

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January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

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

The Air Force Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR) was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on August 28th, 1962 / It is awarded to all Air Force service members (Active and Reservists) who, qualifies as "Expert" in small-arms marksmanship with either the M-16 rifle or issue handgun after January 1st, 1963

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JENSEN**

HAROLD R.

Hometown: BOSTON

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1957

Year Discharged: 1959

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Harold "Butch" R. Jensen honorably served in the United States Army / Harold Jensen was stationed in Fort Sill, Oklahoma and completed the Atomic Projective Assembly Course / Harold Jensen was later stationed in Hanau, Germany at Fliegerhorst Kaserne in the 75th Artillery "C", "B" Battery

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army in 1959, Harold Jensen transferred to the Army Reserve until his discharge in 1963

While stationed in Germany Harold Jensen had the opportunity to meet, then soldier, Elvis Presley

Base Assignments:

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

Hanau Army Airfield is a former military airfield located in Langendiebach, north-northeast of Hanau in Hesse, Germany / Fliegerhorst Langendiebach's facilities and airfield were totally unserviceable when the Americans occupied the area in April 1945, towards the end of World War II / After the German surrender in May 1945, the Hanau Army Airfield was re-designated as "Army Air Forces Station Hanau/Langendiebach" / Army Air Forces units moved out in August, and the facility was taken over by United States Army / Hanau became a major



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United States Army aviation facility during the Cold War, also known as Fliegerhorst Army Airfield / The airfield was gradually drawn down following Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and was closed entirely no later than 2007 / All US Army assets in the Hanau Military Community were officially returned to the local government in 2008

Miscellaneous:

Harold Jensen attended Boston Grade School, District No. 1 from 1944-1950, then attended Springville Griffith Institute until 1952, and finalized his education in 1955 at Hamburg High School / Prior to being drafted into the Army, Jensen worked for Kenneth Fisher at Fisher Trucking / After military service, Harold Jensen drove a truck for Conley Trucking and Century Housewares / Jensen continued his truck driving career working at Wonder Bread in Buffalo until retirement under NYS Teamsters, where he drove trucks of bread down the NYS Thruway / Harold Jensen was longtime member of the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club / Harold Jensen was a member of the AMVETS Post #219 in Boston, New York / Harold "Butch" R. Jensen passed away on 18 February 2026 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Maplewood Cemetery in Boston, New York

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JERGE**

DAVID R.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: EO3

Year Entered: 1966

Year Discharged: 1968

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:

Equipment Operator (Hauling) 3rd Class David Robert Jerge honorably served in the United States Navy / EO3 David Jerge was deployed to Vietnam as a Truck Driver

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David R. Jerge was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940

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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



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

Name: **JERGE**

LOUIS

A.

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:

Louis A. Jerge honorably served in the United States Army / Jerge served for 6 years and was deployed to Vietnam, Germany and New York City

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Louis Jerge attended St. Benedict , Canisius High School and Bussis Preparatory School / Louis Jerge was a 1964 graduate of the West Point Military Academy / Jerge worked as a stockbroker for Sutro & Co. / Jerge retired to Lake Wallenpaupack, Pennsylvania / Louis A. Jerge passed away on 5 August 2024 at the age of 83 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JERGE, SR.**

ALAN

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:

Alan G. Jerge, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alan Jerge was past owner of Laurel and Hardy Tavern in Buffalo and the Overtime Sports Bar in Sloan / Alan G. Jerge Sr. passed away on 4 October 2025 at the age of 78 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JEZEWICZ

RICHARD J.

Hometown: HAMBURG

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard J. Jezewicz honorably served in the United States Army and Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Jezewicz retired as a Mail Handler with the United States Postal Service / Richard J. Jezewicz passed away on 21 January 2026 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JOHNSON

EDWIN J.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: MM3

Year Entered: 1960

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Machinist's Mate Third-Class Edwin J. Johnson honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Machinist's Mate (Surface) (MM) Machinist's Mates operate and maintain steam turbines and reduction gears used for ship propulsion and auxiliary machinery such as turbogenerators, pumps and oil purifiers / They also maintain auxiliary machinery outside of main machinery spaces, such as electrohydraulic steering engines and elevators, refrigeration plants, air conditioning systems and desalinization plants / They may also operate and maintain compressed gas producing plants / The duties performed by MMs include: aligning piping systems for oil, water, air and steam, and controlling the operation of ship boilers and steam turbines used for ship propulsion and service systems; controlling operation of turbogenerators used to produce electrical power; leaning, adjusting, testing and performing other preventive maintenance on a ship's boilers, main engines, turbogenerators and other auxiliary machinery including steering engines, elevators, winches, pumps and associated valves; operating and maintaining desalinization plants (distilling plants) to make fresh water from sea water; maintaining refrigeration plants, air conditioning systems and galley equipment; repairing or replacing valves, pumps, heat exchangers, compressors, steam turbines and hydraulic or pneumatic control devices; making entries in and analyzing machinery operating records and reports / Machinist's mates work within the hull of a ship in fire rooms, boiler rooms, engine rooms or shops



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JOHNSON**

GERALD D.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address: 245 NORTHWOOD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: MS-2

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS HANCOCK (CVA-19)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

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

Service Notes:

Machinist's Mate Petty Officer Second-Class Gerald Johnson honorably served in the United States Navy / MS-2 Johnson was part of the Deck Force, handling the ship lines on the USS Hancock / MS-2 Johnson also worked onboard in the mail room and as a ship's cook

MS-2 Gerald Johnson retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service

Base Assignments:

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

Miscellaneous:

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Jerry Johnson graduated from West Seneca High School / After an honorable discharge from the Navy, Gerald Johnson went to work at West Seneca West Senior High School as a Custodial Engineer / Johnson is a member and 1st Vice Commander of West Seneca American Legion Post 735

The USS Hancock (CV/CVA-19) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II / The ship was the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name, and was named for John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress and first governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts / The Hancock was commissioned in April 1944, and served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, earning four



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battle stars / Decommissioned shortly after the end of WWII, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA) / In her second career, the Hancock operated exclusively in the Pacific, playing a prominent role in the Vietnam War, for which she earned a Navy Unit Commendation / The Hancock was the first US Navy carrier to have steam catapults installed / The USS Hancock was decommissioned in 1976 and sold for scrap

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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 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 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: **JOHNSON**

JAMES A.

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James A. "JJ" Johnson honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Johnson graduated from Burgard High School and drafted into the United States Army / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Johnson went to work For Dunlop Tire in Tonawanda, New York / James Johnson retired after 32 years with Dunlop and held various positions for the 135 URW / James A. "JJ" Johnson passed away on 2 March 2023 at the age of 76 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JOHNSON**

RAYMOND H.

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: 1966

Unit / Squadron:

384TH REPLACEMENT COMPANY

15TH SUPPLY & TRANSPORT BATTALION, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class Raymond H. Johnson honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Johnson was deployed to Korea with the Army Chemical Corp for 13 months of active duty assigned as an Equipment Operator

SP4 Raymond Johnson was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 29 July 1966

Base Assignments:

Fort Hood, Texas - Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:

Raymond H. Johnson passed away on 15 February 2019 at the age of 74 years old



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The Army Chemical Corps is the branch of the United States Army tasked with defending against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons / The Chemical Warfare Service was established on 28 June 1918, combining activities that until then had been dispersed among five separate agencies of the United States federal government / It was made a permanent branch of the Regular Army by the National Defense Act of 1920 and in 1945, it was redesignated the Chemical Corps

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 in 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 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: JOHNSON

RICHARD T.

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:** VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Richard T. Johnson honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Johnson was a former Choir Director for the Faith United Methodist Church in Lancaster / Richard T. Johnson passed away on 26 September 2022



Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JOHNSON**

ROBERT J.

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:

Robert J. "Bob" Johnson honorably served in the United States Army National Guard / Robert Johnson served for six years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Johnson was a builder by trade and owned A&A Tile and Linoleum in West Seneca until his retirement in 2024 / Robert J. "Bob" Johnson passed away on 9 May 2025 at the age of 80 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: **JOHNSTON**
THOMAS M.

Hometown: CLARENCE

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Thomas M. Johnston honorably served in the United States Army / Thomas Johnston was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Johnston retired from Mercedes Benz of Buffalo after more than 40 years of service / Thomas M. Johnston passed away on 16 February 2026 at the age of 76 years old

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

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: **JONES**

RICHARD F.

Hometown: LANCASTER

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1972

Year Discharged: 1976

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Richard F. Jones honorably served in the United States Air Force / Richard Jones was stationed in Germany

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Jones was a lector and past chairman of the HMRC Parish Church Committee / Richard F. Jones passed away on 2 October 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JONES

THOMAS P.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 274 WOODSIDE AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: LT

Year Entered: 1963

Year Discharged: MIA

Unit / Squadron:

7TH FLEET, PATROL SQUADRON 26, VP-26

Medals / Citations:

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NAVY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Thomas Paul Jones honorably served in the United States Navy / LT Thomas Jones was deployed to Vietnam as a Naval Flight Officer / LT Thomas Jones was declared Missing In Action on 6 February 1968 after his aircraft left Thailand on 5 February 1968 to locate enemy water craft on a mission and crashed in the Gulf of Thailand

At 0900 hours on 5 February 1968, a P-3B Orion #BU-153440 with a crew of twelve departed Utapao Air Base, Thailand on a "Market Time" mission (an eight year effort meant to prevent men and supplies from North Vietnam entering South Vietnam via coastal waterways) over the Gulf of Thailand (Gulf of Siam) / They were scheduled to return to their base at about 0900 hours the following morning / The crew on board the aircraft included Lt. Thomas P. Jones; LtJg. Lynn M. Travis; LtJg. Roy A. Huss; AXCS Donald F. Burnett; AX3 Armando Chapa Jr.; AX3 William F. Farris (AX designates Antisubmarine warfare technicians and related duties); AOC Donald L. Gallagher; AMH2 Homer E. McKay; ADR1 James C. Newman Jr.; AE1 Melvin C. Thompson / As antisubmarine warfare was all but unknown in Vietnam, there were a variety of duties handled by those trained in antisubmarine warfare / As marking submarines, and/or destroying them involved the use of marking buoys, electronic "ears" and other technical equipment suited for target marking, antisubmarine teams were frequently used for search missions / They also sometimes assisted in attacks on small enemy water craft / Shortly after midnight on 6 February, the Orion reported a surface contact / Some two hours later it reported another contact somewhat further east / The last report received from the Orion was after 0300 hours / No



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subsequent communication was received / An emergency communication alert for the aircraft was declared shortly after daybreak and a full search and rescue (SAR) was declared / In the late afternoon of 6 February, wreckage and debris were sighted and identified / On 7 February search and rescue operations were terminated at sundown / Salvage operations were conducted from 11 February through 21 March / The investigating officer concluded that the Orion had impacted with the water, and that the aircraft had been completely destroyed, and that all of the crewmembers had died instantly / The Orion went down about 50 miles off the shores of South Vietnam's An Xuyen Province in the Gulf of Thailand / They located debris forty miles off the coast of South Vietnam, but only two bodies were recovered / The remaining crew members are considered Missing in Action / Presumably, all the crew aboard are "buried" at sea - an honorable burial for a naval man / This crew is listed with honor among the missing because no remains were ever found

LT Thomas Jones served at NATO in Newfoundland, Scotland and Ireland before starting training for surveillance at Brunswick, Maine prior to his deployment to the Pacific

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Jones was a graduate of Bishop Timon High School and Buffalo State University College / Jones enlisted in the U.S. Navy in March 1963 / Thomas Paul Jones was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is memorialized at Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial and on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC.

Thomas Paul Jones is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 37e, Line 59

The Seventh Fleet is a numbered fleet of the United States Navy / It is headquartered at U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan and is part of the United States Pacific Fleet / At present, it is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, with 50 to 70 ships, 150 aircraft and 27,000 Sailors and Marines / Its principal responsibilities are to provide joint command in natural disaster or military operations and operational command of all U.S. naval forces in the region / On 12 February 1965, USS Salisbury Sound (AV-13) became the first U.S. Navy ship to conduct operations inside Vietnam coastal waters.[9] Salisbury Sound set up a seadrome in Da Nang Bay and conducted seaplane patrols in support of Operation Flaming Dart, the bombing of North Vietnamese army camps / Operating primarily from Yankee Station off the north coast of Vietnam and the south coast of Vietnam in the South China Sea, Seventh Fleet was organized into a series of task forces, which included providing air support to US forces in South Vietnam, bombing North Vietnamese army camps, providing naval gunfire support and removing naval mines dropped in Haiphong harbor / In 1975, ships and aircraft of the 7th Fleet evacuated thousands of U.S. citizens and refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia as those countries fell to opposing forces

Patrol Squadron VP-26 is a maritime patrol squadron with a worldwide theater of operations / Mission areas include anti-submarine warfare (ASW); anti-morale warfare (AMW); anti-surface warfare (ASU); command and control warfare (C2W); command, control and communications (CCC); intelligence (INT); mine warfare (MIW) / From 24 November 1967 to April 1968, VP-26 deployed to the western Pacific with detachments based at NS Sangley Point in the Philippines and U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield in Thailand / The squadron was tasked



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with Yankee Team patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin, Market Time surveillance off the southern coast of South Vietnam and open-sea patrols in the South China Sea

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

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

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

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

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



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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: JONES

WALTER L.

Hometown: AMHERST

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1956

Unit / Squadron:

COMBAT CORP OF ENGINEERS

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Walter Lewis Jones honorably served in the United States Army / Walter Jones was stationed in Korea as a member of the Combat Corp of Engineers. building bridges and roads

Walter Jones became a skilled boxer in the military with the moniker "Hurricane Jones" due to his speed and power

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter Jones was born in Haynesville, Alabama / Walter Jones was one of the early African American entrepreneurs in Buffalo New York, starting his own company; Walter L. Jones Construction Company, which performed many building projects in and around Buffalo, including churches and roads / Jones' company constructed the Casey Road Bridge in Amherst and the Rowley Bridge in Depew, New York / In 1974 he was one of the first 3 recipients of Buffalo Common Council Presidential Community Award, granted to businesses that made major contributions to the improvement of the city of Buffalo / In the 1970s, Jones formed the independent Minority Contractors of the Niagara Frontier which helped him to establish a new field of construction -acquiring older buildings for meticulous demolition and reselling of bricks / Walter Lewis Jones passed away on 23 January 2026 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

A combat engineer is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of



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friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JONES JR
CLIFFORD

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Colonel Clifford Jones, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Colonel Clifford Jones was a West Point graduate and served in the U.S. Army for 30 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Clifford Jones worked for M&T Bank and Calspan before retiring in 1994 / Clifford Jones, Jr. passed away on 1 March 2024 at the age of 90 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JORDAN**

PATRICK

M.

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 168 JEWETT PARKWAY

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LCPL

Year Entered: 1965

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Lance Corporal Patrick Michael Jordan honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Patrick Jordan was deployed to Vietnam on 12 June 1967 as a Rifleman / LCPL Patrick Jordan was Killed In Action on 14 December 1967 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

LCPL Patrick Jordan was stationed in Reykjavik, Iceland for a year before being deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Patrick Jordan attended Bennett High School before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965 / Patrick Michael Jordan was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Patrick Michael Jordan is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 31e, Line 92

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JORDAN**

ROBERT E.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert E. Jordan honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert E. Jordan passed away on 29 January 2026 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



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JOY**
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 CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Charles "Chuck" Joy honorably served in the United States Military / Charles Joy was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: JOYNT

JOHN A.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP4

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

121ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY (AHC)

Medals / Citations:

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

Service Notes:

Specialist Fourth-Class John A. (Jackie) Joynt honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 John Joynt was deployed to Vietnam and served 18 months in Soc Trang, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John A. (Jackie) Joynt passed away on 19 August 1967 as a result of a motorcycle accident, at the age of 22 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The 121st Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) was part of the 121st Aviation Company / The history of the 121st Aviation Company, "Soc Trang Tigers," dates back over seventy-one years to 10 February 1936, when the unit was activated as Company H, 2nd Battalion, 47th Quartermaster Truck Regiment (Note: this predates the Transportation Corps.) / On 1 April 1954, it was redesignated as the 93d Transportation Company (Helicopter) / It was in this configuration that it arrived in Southeast Asia / On 15 December 1961, the 93d Transportation Company (Helicopter) departed the continental U.S. for Vietnam to provide aerial transportation for the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) / First stationed at Da Nang, it gained an outstanding reputation as it helped develop heliborne assault techniques, supply methods, and medical evacuation operations / The unit then relocated to Soc Trang, RVN in September of 1962 and by so doing became the first Army helicopter company in the Mekong Delta / In December 1962, the unit logged 1,000 hours of flying time / In January 1963, the unit was presented with a fifteen week-old Bengal Tiger / Although the tiger, named "Tuffy", only stayed with the unit until June of 1963, his legacy was to the name, The Soc Trang Tigers / On 25 June 1963, the 93d



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Transportation Company was redesignated the 121st Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light), retaining its men, equipment, and physical location / Only a few days later, on 4 July 1963, came the activation of the "Delta" Battalion later renamed the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion (CAB) at Can Tho, RVN / In 1964 the unit H-21s were replaced by the UH-1, the Viking gunship platoon was formed and the year ended with a stunning victory over the Viet Cong / For its part in this victory the 121st Aviation Company received the Distinguished Unit Citation presented on 25 August 1966 by General William C. Westmoreland / In October 1970 the 121st Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) stopped reporting operationally to the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion (CAB) / They started receiving missions from the local Vietnamese National Air Force (VNAF) Wing / Their primary mission was to train Vietnamese officers and enlisted men in the details of the transport side of the 121st AHC's mission (gunships were not transferred to the VNAF) / In December 1970, with the transfer complete, the 121st AHC ceased operations

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JUDGE**

DAVID

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:

David Judge honorably served in the United States Military / David Judge was deployed to Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JUDGE, JR.**

WILLIAM

C.

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

Address: 84 GREENWOOD AVENUE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1967

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

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

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William Charles Judge, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC William Judge was deployed to Vietnam on 8 October 1967 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC William Judge was Killed In Action on 27 March 1968 from multiple fragmentation wounds suffered in combat operations during the Battle of Khe Sanh in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam / PFC Judge was awarded the Purple Heart (posthumously)

The Battle of Khe Sanh was conducted in northwestern Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam with roots in 1967, and extending viciously throughout 1968 / It was the longest, deadliest and most controversial battle of the Vietnam War / During the battle, a massive aerial bombardment campaign (Operation Niagara) was launched by the United States / Over 100,000 tons of bombs / Five tons of bombs for every one of the 20,000 NVA soldiers in the fight / President Johnson was determined to hold Khe Sanh at all costs / The jungles surrounding Khe Sanh were burned and bombed barren and Khe Sanh became the major news headline coming out of Vietnam in late March 1968 / The cost on American lives lost has been estimated to be around 1000 with NVA loses ten times that number

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Judge was a 1960 graduate of Lackawanna Senior High School / Judge worked as a Firefighter at the



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Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel before being drafted into the U.S. Army on 8 May 1967 / William Charles Judge, Jr. was 25 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

William Judge, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 46e, Line 47

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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



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

Name: JUSKO

TOM

A.

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:

Tom A. Jusko honorably served in the United States Air Force and was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi and at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Base Assignments:

Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi - Keesler Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located in Biloxi, a city along the Gulf Coast in Harrison County, Mississippi, United States / The base is named in honor of aviator 2nd Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler Jr., a Mississippi native killed in France during the First World War and was activated in June 1941 / The base is home of Headquarters, Second Air Force (2 AF) and the 81st Training Wing (81 TW) of the Air Education and Training Command / The Tuskegee Airmen were trained at Keesler. More than 7,000 Black soldiers were stationed at Keesler Field by the autumn of 1943 / These soldiers included pre-aviation cadets, radio operators, aviation technicians, bombardiers, and aviation mechanics / Keesler is also home to CNATTU Keesler (Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit), a training unit for U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps enlisted personnel receiving training at Keesler, such as enlisted meteorology training, with their Air Force counterparts

Miscellaneous:

Tom Jusko graduated from the George Washington University and the University of Buffalo / Jusko retired as the Principal Probation Officer for Erie County, New York / Tom A. Jusko passed away on 23 September 2022 at the age of 74 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **JUSZKIEWICZ**

THOMAS 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:**

Service Notes:

Thomas J. Juskiewicz honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Juskiewicz served as a dedicated Detective of the Buffalo Police Department and a Cheektowaga Court Officer / Thomas J. Juskiewicz passed away on 19 February 2026 at the age of 84 years old