



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KACZKOWSKI**  
**PAUL**

**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:**

Paul Kaczowski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Kaczowski was employed by Metro Community News as an Advertising Salesman / Paul Kaczowski passed away on 7 March 2025



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KACZOR**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAITANOWSKI**

**JOHN**

**D.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John D. Kaitanowski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John D. Kaitanowski passed away on 28 December 2025 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KALBARCZYK  
MATTHEW**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP5

**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:**

Specialist Fifth-Class Matthew Kalbarczyk honorably served in the United States Army / SP5 Matthew Kalbarczyk was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Matthew Kalbarczyk was an avid hunter, fisherman and photographer / Matthew Kalbarczyk passed away on 24 July 2014 at the age of 67 years old and is interred at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KALBARCZYK**  
**MICHAEL**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*  
 *Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael Kalbarczyk honorably served in the United States Army / Michael Kalbarczyk was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KALEJTA

RICHARD J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1957

**Year Discharged:** 1959

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Private Richard J. "Dicko" Kalejta honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard J. "Dicko" Kalejta passed away on 10 October 1998 at the age of 63 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAMINSKI, SR.**  
**GERALD**

**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:**

Gerald Kaminski honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gerald Kaminski established his family's Buffalo-based truck equipment business, Kaminski and Sons, in 1971 / Gerald Kaminski was elected to the Cheektowaga Town Board in 2011 and was on his fourth term / Kaminski previously served as deputy town supervisor under multiple Cheektowaga leaders / In 2023, Kaminski was named the Western New York Polish American Business Owner of the Year from the General Pulaski Association / Gerald "Jerry" Kaminski, Sr. passed away on 28 January 2025 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

The Air National Guard (ANG) is a federal military reserve force of the United States Air Force, as well as the air militia of each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands / Its federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies / In the Air National Guard, you can serve your country and community, with career and leadership opportunities, healthcare and education benefits, and the freedom to choose how you serve



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAMM**

**MICHAEL G.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael G. Kamm honorably served in the United States Air National Guard / Michael Kamm was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in action against an armed enemy / Michael Kamm joined the 107th Air National Guard, Niagara Falls in 1960 where he served as a jet mechanic and flightline crew chief / Kamm's military career spanned 33 years, earning 26 medals

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Following his Honorable Discharge from the service, Michael G. Kamm was employed by the Orchard Park School District as a bus driver for 21 years / Kamm was a 60-year volunteer fireman with the West Seneca Reserve Hose Fire Company, where he served as vice-president and president of the fire company / Michael G. Kamm passed away on 2 February 2022 at the age of 83 years old

The Air National Guard (ANG) is a federal military reserve force of the United States Air Force, as well as the air militia of each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands / Its federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies / In the Air National Guard, you can serve your country and community, with career and leadership opportunities, healthcare and education benefits, and the freedom to choose how you serve

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KANAVEL**

**MICHAEL D.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

17TH BOMBARDMENT WING

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael D. Kanavel honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Kanavel was born in Houston, Texas and lived in Buffalo / Kanavel graduated from Grand Island High School in 1967 / Michael Kanavel worked at several different area companies retiring from Tapecon in Buffalo as an Estimator / Kanavel moved to Niagara Falls, New York / Michael D. Kanavel passed away on 2 October 2014 at the age of 64 years old and is interred at Niagara Falls Memorial Park Cemetery, Lewiston, New York

The 17th Bombardment Wing was established as the 17th Bombardment Wing, Light on 8 May 1952 and activated two days later at Pusan-East Air Base, Korea, where it replaced the 452nd Bombardment Wing Light / It was attached the 5th Air Force, Tactical Air Command and equipped with B-26s from World War II / During the Korean War, from 10 May 1952 until 27 July 1953, the 17th Bombardment Wing conducted combat operations that included light bombardment, interdiction and armed reconnaissance / It moved to Miho Air Base, Japan on 10 October 1954, where it maintained operational proficiency for light bombardment / It returned to the United States and was assigned to Eglin AFB, Florida on 1 April 1955 / On 1 October 1955, it was redesignated the 17th Bombardment Wing, Tactical and flew B-57s in 1956 and 1957, and B-66s from 1956 until 1958 / The Wing was inactivated on 25 June 25 1958 / Redesignated the 17th Bombardment Wing, Heavy and activated on 15 November 1962 and replaced the 4043rd Strategic Wing in February 1963 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio / It trained to maintain proficiency in strategic bombing and aerial refueling on a global basis / It furnished B-52s KC-135 aircraft and crews to SAC units in Vietnam from 1966 to 1975 / The 17th Bombardment Wing was inactivated on September 30, 1976



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KANDEFER, JR.**

**STANLEY J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** UNION ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR (2)

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Stanley J. Kandefer, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Kandefer taught specialized training to Army personnel while stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Sergeant Kandefer was deployed to Vietnam and was Wounded in Action, stepping on a land mine, while on a Search & Destroy mission in a remote section of Kon Tum province in South Vietnam / Sergeant Kandefer spent a year-and-a-half at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Colorado recovering from his wounds

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Benning, Georgia - Camp Benning, near Columbus, Georgia was established in 1909 and has served as the Home of the Infantry / Renamed Fort Benning in 1922, the base is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees, and civilian employees on a daily basis / It is a power projection platform, and possesses the capability to deploy combat-ready forces by air, rail, and highway

Fort Jackson, South Carolina - Located within the city of Columbia, the camp was created in 1917 and named for Andrew Jackson, a United States Army General and seventh President of the United States of America / Fort Jackson is the largest and most active initial entry training center in the U.S. Army, training 50 percent of all soldiers and 60 percent of the women entering the Army each year / Providing the Army with new soldiers is the post's primary mission. 35,000 potential soldiers attend basic training and 8,000 advanced individual training soldiers train at Fort Jackson annually



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

Stanley J. Kandefer graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School in 1964 / Prior to being drafted into the U. S. Army, Kandefer graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business School with an Accounting Degree / After his Honorable Discharge, Kandefer, as a Master Plumber, went into the family business of heating and plumbing, eventually becoming the owner of Kandefer Plumbing & Heating, Inc. / Passing on the business to family members, Kandefer retired from the day-to-day activities but remains very active in the industry / Kandefer was instrumental in creating the West Seneca Vietnam Memorial, honoring those who lost their lives while serving in Vietnam / Stanley Kandefer is a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 8113 / Stanley J. Kandefer, Jr. passed away on 27 September 2023

The 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") is an elite modular specialized light infantry division of the US Army / Trained for air assault operations, it has been referred to as "the tip of the spear" / It is the most potent and tactically mobile of the U.S. Army's divisions / The 101st Airborne is able to plan, coordinate, and execute brigade-size air assault operations capable of seizing key terrain in support of operational objectives, and is capable of working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / These particular operations are conducted by highly mobile teams covering extensive distances and engaging enemy forces behind enemy lines / Its unique battlefield mobility and high level of training have kept it in the vanguard of US land combat forces in recent conflicts / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They literally fought in every area of Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / In May 1967 the 1st Brigade operated as part of Task Force Oregon / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent Division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / In almost seven years of combat in Vietnam, elements of the 101st participated in 15 campaigns / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The 101st Airborne were called the "Chicken Men" by the North Vietnamese because of their insignia. (The Vietnamese had never seen an eagle before) / Enemy commanders are said to have warned their men to avoid the Chicken Men at all costs because they were sure to lose any engagement with them / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam it suffered 4,011 killed in action and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

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

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



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February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award / 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, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941 / On or after 18 September 2001: a Soldier must be an Army infantry or special forces officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of Colonel or below, or an Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or special forces MOS, who has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires / A Soldier must be personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned infantry or Special Forces primary duty, in a unit engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KANE**

**DENNIS J.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Dennis Joseph Kane honorably served in the United States Air Force

Joining the Air Force Reserves, Dennis Kane became a Intelligence Photo Interpreter / Dennis Kane was called to active duty in the 1968 Pueblo crisis with the 107th Tactical Fighter group in Niagara Falls, New York

**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:**

Dennis Kane was employed by the Erie County Savings Bank / Dennis Kane moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1976, becoming the Safety Director at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport / Dennis Joseph Kane passed away on 12 January 2025 at the age of 83 years old

The 107th Tactical Fighter Group was initially formed in 1946 as the 107th Fighter Group, consisting of 14 officers and 100 enlisted members / Over the years, the unit operated various fighter aircraft, including the F-47 Thunderbolt, P-51H Mustang, F-4C/D Phantom, and F-16A Falcon / In March 1994, it transitioned to its current



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

mission as the 107th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), flying the KC-135R Strato Tanker / The 107th ARW primarily supports worldwide air refueling missions and can also transport cargo and passengers when needed / Additionally, the unit has a state mission to provide equipment and personnel as directed by the Governor and Division of Military and Naval Affairs / In 2017, it was re-designated as the 107th Attack Wing (ATKW), focusing on operating the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft / The 107th ATKW is based at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and plays a crucial role in both federal and state missions

**Name:** **KANE**

**GARY**

**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:**

Gary Kane honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Kane was a retired Senior Highway Maintenance Engineer for Erie County / Gary E. Kane passed away on 25 May 2025



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KANEY**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

James Kaney honorably served in the United States Army / James Kaney was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KANTENWEIN**

**WILLIAM R.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William R. Kantenwein honorably served in the United States Army Reserve for six years

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Kantenwein graduated from Niagara County Community College with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / William Kantenwein was the owner of KNK Remodeling from 1967 to 2017 / William R. Kantenwein passed away on 2 July 2018 at the age of 67 years old and his remains were cremated



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KANTOR**  
**LEON T.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Leon T. Kantor honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Kantor served as a Dentist during his service time

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Leon Kantor was a graduate of Hamilton College and University of Buffalo Dental School where he received his Doctorate Degree / Leon Kantor practiced Dentistry in Hamburg, New York and was a member of the Wanakah Country Club / Kantor was a two-time NYS Junior Golfing Champion / Leon T. Kantor, DDS passed away on 9 October 2025 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KAPUS

JOHN

S.

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John S. Kapus honorably served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Kapus attended Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College and was a chiropractor for 40 years at Riverside Chiropractic / Kapus was a member of the NY Chiropractic Association and received the Chiropractor of the Year award in 1974 / John Kapus was also a member and former President of the Riverside Business Association / John S. Kapus passed away on 7 May 2018 at the age of 79 years old and his remains cremated

The Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES or MFR), also known as the United States Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR) and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, is the reserve force of the United States Marine Corps / The Marine Corps Reserve is an expeditionary, warfighting organization and primarily designed to augment and reinforce the active duty units of the Marine Corps in their expeditionary role / It is the largest command, by assigned personnel, in the U.S. Marine Corps / Marines in the Reserve go through the same training and work in the same Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) as their active-duty counterparts / The United States Marine Corps Reserve was established when Congress passed the Naval Appropriations Act of 29 August 1916, and is responsible for providing trained units and qualified individuals to be mobilized for active duty in time of war, national emergency, or contingency operations / Reserve Marines are ready to supplement the active-duty troops when needed



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KARB**

**JOSEPH**

**G.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph G. Karb honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Karb was a graduate of Kensington High School, Bryant and Stratton and the University of Buffalo / Karb spent many years as a Controller in the retail industry and was a retiree of Blue Cross of Western New York / Joseph G. Karb passed away on 15 October 2025 at the age of 86 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KARCHER**  
**HENRY**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 63 FARMINGDALE

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Henry "Hank" Karcher honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Karcher was stationed in Japan, Okinawa and Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Henry Karcher was employed by Merchants Insurance Group in Buffalo, followed by Graphic Controls / When Graphic Controls closed down, Karcher went to work for Early Head Start until his retirement / Henry "Hank" Karcher passed away on 1 December 2021 at the age of 77 years / Karcher is interred in the Field of Valor at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KARN**

**WAYNE**

**D.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 22 LARKWOOD ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

A CO, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MAGTF)

I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (MEF)

III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Wayne Douglas Karn honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Wayne Karn was deployed to Vietnam as a Machine Gunner / LCPL Wayne Karn was Killed in Action on 20 June 1967 from small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

In June 1967, with termination of Operation UNION, the Battalion retained its forward Command Post on Hill 51 and continued to conduct combat operations in the Que Son District of Quang Nam Province / During a security patrol on Route 514 west of Hill 51 near the village of Lanh Thoung several rounds of sniper fire rang out, LCPL Wayne Karn was struck and killed by the hostile fire

LCPL Karn was a Machine Gunner and served in Cuba for four months prior to being deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is located on the Southern California coast, in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II and was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the west coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars with approximately 200,000 Marines passing through the base on their way to the Far East / In 1975 Camp Pendleton was the first military base in the U.S. to provide accommodations for Vietnamese evacuees in Operation New Arrivals; over 50,000 refugees came to the base in the largest humanitarian airlift in history / Camp Pendleton is the home for I Marine Expeditionary Force and various training commands

### *Miscellaneous:*

Wayne Karn graduated from West Seneca Central High School in 1964 / After graduation, Karn was a dental technician for the Agthe Dental Laboratory / Prior to being drafted into the Marine Corps on 22 March 1966, Karn was a truck driver for Fisher-Price Toys / Wayne Douglas Karn was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

Wayne Douglas Karn is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22e, Line 25

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

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California consisting of approximately 800 Marines and sailors / Nicknamed "Geronimo", it falls under the command of the 5th Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division / The battalion was formed in 1914 and has served in every major conflict that the United States has been involved in since then / On 25 May 1917, the battalion was activated and deployed to France on 1 June 1917. 1/5 participated in the following World War I campaigns: Aisne, Aisen-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Toulon-Troyon, Chateau-Thierry, Marabache, and Limey / During World War II, the Marines of 1st Battalion fought at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Peleliu, and Okinawa / During October 1949, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines / During October 1949, the battalion was deployed to Korea and fought at Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Seoul and Chosin Reservoir / From June



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

1966 to March 1971, 1/5 was deployed to South Vietnam / The battalion participated in action around Chu Lai, Danang, Quang Nam, Que Son Valley, Hoi An, Phu Loc and An Hoa / The unit was deactivated in June 1974, but once again was quickly reactivated in March 1975 / The battalion played a major role in the Battle of Hue during February 1968 / Engaging the enemy in the famous Citadel on the north side of the Perfume River, the battalion became known as the "Citadel Battalion"

The I Marine Expeditionary Force is a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) of the United States Marine Corps primarily composed of the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 1st Marine Logistics Group / It is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton / I Marine Expeditionary Force is the largest of the three MEFs in the Fleet Marine Force and is often referred to as the "Warfighting MEF" for its consistent involvement and contributions in major armed conflicts

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KARPINSKI**

**JOSEPH J.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph J. Karpinski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Karpinski was a graduate of the Emerson High School Culinary Program / Karpinski was a Baker for 36 years at Kaufman's Bakery (Buffalo, New York) until his retirement / After retirement Joseph Karpinski worked part-time at Vin-Chet Pastry (Amherst, New York) / Joseph J. Karpinski passed away on 30 March 2025 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KASIC**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

James Kasic honorably served in the United States Military / James Kasic was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KASMER**

**JOHN**

**R.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CAPT

**Year Entered:** 1948

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL  
EDAL

NYS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS AWARD

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain John R. Kasmer honorably served in the United States Air Force and was a veteran of the Korean War, Cold War and Vietnam War Era

After completing Basic Training, Kasmer was selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Dix / He served in the Korean War as an Infantry Officer with the 101st Airborne Division, and upon returning stateside, was selected to serve as a member of the "Old Guard" for 4 years at Arlington National Cemetery / He would then go on to become an inspector at Fort Bragg North Carolina for the remainder of his career in the Army / He later served in the US Air Force Reserve for a short time before finally retiring from military service

**Base Assignments:**

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

After retiring from the military in 1972, John Kasmer worked as a mechanic for General Motors until his full retirement in 1996 / John Kasmer was a member of the American Legion, Post #1449 / John R. Kasmer passed away on 8 January 2024 at the age of 94 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KASPEREK**

**GERALD R.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

152ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE, COMPANY "A"

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Gerald R. Kasperek honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Kasperek was assigned to the Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division while serving in Vietnam / SP4 Gerald Kasperek was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat and the Bronze Star for heroism during combat action

**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. Ord, California - Located near Monterey Bay on an old artillery range, Ft. Ord was constructed in 1940 / Ft. Ord was named in honor of Union Army Maj. Gen. Edward Otho Cresap Ord, (1818-1883) a famous and well respected Federal military leader during the American Civil War who also served in the Second Seminole War in Florida and the western Indian Wars / During the Vietnam War conflict it became the major training center in the nation / In 1964 a Drill Sergeant School was opened / It once again was home to basic combat, advanced infantry, and basic unit training for over half a million soldiers / It was the highest overall training of combat ready troops in the fort's history / In 1973 the last American troops departed Vietnam / The total number of soldiers trained at Fort Ord from 1940 to 1975 is estimated at 1.5 million / In 1994, Fort Ord was officially closed



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a United States Marine Corps military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Chu Lai Air Base became operational on 1 June 1965 and remained in use by Marine aviation units until September 1970 / The Seabees of MCB-10 built the helicopter pad, and the Marines also established combat base and helicopter facility on the Kỳ Hà peninsula north of the air base / On the morning of 31 January 1968 as part of the Tet Offensive, the Viet Cong attacked the base with rockets and mortars triggering an explosion in the bomb dump. MAGs 12 and 13 suffered three aircraft destroyed and 23 damaged / The Marine base was handed over to the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in April 1967 and subsequently became the headquarters and base area for the 23rd Americal Division from September 1967 until November 1971

Camp Casey, Korea - Camp Casey is a 3,500 acre U.S. military base in Dongducheon, South Korea / The camp was named in 1952 after Major Hugh Boyd Casey, who was killed in an plane crash near Camp Casey during the Korean War / Camp Casey is one of several U.S. Army bases in South Korea near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

## *Miscellaneous:*

Gerald Kasperek graduated from high school in Lackawanna / Prior to military service, Kasperek was employed at the Red Barn Restaurant / Upon his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Kasperek attended Buffalo State College and went to work for the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / Gerald Kasperek then joined the United States Postal Service where he was employed for 38 years / Gerald Kasperek and his family moved to West Seneca in 1981 / Gerald R. Kasperek passed away on 27 January 2026 at the age of 75 years old

The 198th Infantry Brigade, was first formed as part of the United States Army Reserve's 99th Division / It was active from 1967 through 1971 and has been active since 2007 as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia / During the years of 1967–1971, as part of the Vietnam War, the 198th was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division / In 1968, elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade participated in the Battle of Kham Duc / Reactivated on 15 May 2007, the 198th Infantry Brigade now serves as an Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia with the mission to train and prepare infantry soldiers for their critical roles in the U.S. Army

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAUDERER**

**JAMES E.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1964

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class James Earl Kauderer honorably served in the United States Air Force as a Air Traffic Controller assigned to Clark Air Base in the Philippines Islands for 11 months

A1C James Kauderer was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 15 December 1964

**Base Assignments:**

Clark Air Base, Philippines - Clark Air Base is a Philippine Air Force base on Luzon Island in the Philippines, located 3 miles west of Angeles City, about 40 miles northwest of Metro Manila / Clark Air Base was previously a United States military facility, operated by the U.S. Air Force under the aegis of Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and their predecessor organizations from 1903 to 1991 / The base was a stronghold of the combined Philippine and American forces during the final months of World War II and a backbone of logistical support during the Vietnam War until 1975 / In April 2016, an Air Contingent of USAF A-10s and HH-60s was deployed from U.S. air bases in Pyeongtaek and Okinawa to Clark / The primary mission of the contingent appears to be to patrol disputed South China Sea islands, "to provide greater and more transparent air and maritime domain awareness to ensure safety for military and civilian activities in international waters and airspace"

**Miscellaneous:**

James Earl Kauderer passed away on 22 May 2017

In the 1960s and early 70s, Air Force communications played a critical role in Southeast Asia / Communication support to the massive operations involved a host of specialists performing every then-known communications-electronics function and devising new ones as situations dictated / The war in Vietnam dramatically tested the responsiveness of communications operators to the various demands of tactical combat as well as counter-



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

insurgency operations / On Jan 14, 1962, a detachment of AFCS' 1st Mobile Communications Group installed a tactical air control system in South Vietnam / Also, the group installed voice and teletype services at Tan Son Nhut, Pleiku, DaNang, and Nha Trang / From April 23 to May 1, 1975, during the evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam, four Air Force Communication Specialists with a radio-equipped jeep, provided communications for the US Defense Attache Office / By April 28, attacks on Saigon had become so heavy that the team was ordered to evacuate / Two of the men volunteered to stay to support the US Marine guards / When the two airmen were airlifted out by helicopter shortly after midnight on 1 May 1975, they were the last Air Force personnel evacuated from South Vietnam



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAWCZYNSKI**

**MATTHEW D.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**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:**

Matthew D. Kawczynski honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Matthew Kawczynski was a 50 year active member of the Cleveland Hill Fire Department #6 / Kawczynski was Past Chief and Fire Commissioner for the Fire Department / Matthew Kawczynski was a retired Fire Inspector for the Town of Cheektowaga / Matthew D. Kawczynski passed away on 9 May 2024 at the age of 76 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAWINSKI**

**BOHDAN J.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**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:**

Bohdan J. Kawinski honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Bohdan Kawinski graduated from medical school in 1982 and had 47 years of experience in Internal Medicine /  
Bohdan J. Kawinski, MD. Passed away on 29 July 2025



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAZMIERCZAK**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 23 ORANGE STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Robert Joseph Kazmierczak honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Robert Kazmierczak was deployed to Vietnam on 4 January 1969 and assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Robert Kazmierczak was Killed in Action on 14 June 1969 when he stepped on an enemy booby trap, suffering fatal wounds while on patrol in Binh Dinh, South Vietnam

On June 14, 1969, CPL Kazmierczak's platoon from C Company was working with D Company of the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, in Binh Dinh Province, RVN / At 1303 hours, D Company, 4/503, heard an explosion to their south / They sent out a patrol and found a Viet Cong female with multiple fragmentation wounds to both of her legs / Part of the patrol escorted her to a medivac helicopter while another part of the patrol searched the area when a booby trapped 105mm artillery shell was set off / Kazmierczak was killed instantly in the blast and another trooper was wounded

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kazmierczak graduated from Baker Victory High School (1966), Lackawanna, and Bryant & Stratton Business Institute / Prior to his induction into military service, Kazmierczak was employed at the Bethlehem Steel Corp Lackawanna plant, and was attending evening classes at Millard Fillmore College of the University of



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Buffalo, working toward a business degree / Robert Joseph Kazmierczak was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

Robert Joseph Kazmierczak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22w, Line 47

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

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry served in Vietnam from 22 September 1967 to 13 December 1970 in II Corps (Central Highlands), providing combat power to major units as and where it was most needed / At times it was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 173d Airborne Brigade and 1st Field Force Vietnam / The 173rd served in Loc Son, Phan Thiet, Cay Giep Mountains, in and around Binh Thuan Province

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KAZMIERSKI**

**EDWIN M.**

**Hometown:** TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Edwin M. Kazmierski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edwin Kazmierski was a life member of the AMVETS Hank Nowak Post #45 / Edwin M. Kazmierski passed away on 29 February 2024 at the age of 83 and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KEELER**

**WILLIAM C.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:** 853 PARKER ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, 10TH AVIATION BATTALION, 17TH AVIATION GROUP, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant William Charles Keeler honorably served in the United States Army / SGT William Keeler was deployed to Vietnam on 8 May 1968 as an Infantryman / SGT William Keeler was Killed In Action on 1 December 1969 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Duc Province, South Vietnam

This was the second Vietnam tour for Green Beret Sergeant William Keeler and was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart during his first tour

**Base Assignments:**

Marble Mountain Air Facility , South Vietnam - Marble Mountain Air Facility (MMAF), also known as Da Nang East Airfield, Marble Mountain Army Airfield and Nuoc Man Airfield, was an aviation facility used primarily by the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War / It was a helicopter facility that was constructed in August 1965 and served as home to Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16), the 5th Special Forces Group and an assortment of other squadrons until May 1971 / It was controlled by the United States Army from May 1971 to August 1972 and finally by the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) from 29 August 1972 to 29 March 1975 when it fell to the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) / It was in Quang Nam Province 5 miles southeast of Da Nang Air Base on a strip of beach between China Beach and the Marble Mountains

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

William Keeler attended Hamburg Senior High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1967 / William Charles Keeler was 19 old years at the time of his passing and is interred at Prospect Lawn Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

William Charles Keeler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 15w, Line 13

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

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

The 17th Aviation Brigade was a military formation of the United States Army / It was originally activated at Nha Trang, Vietnam, as the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) on 15 December 1965 under the 1st Aviation Brigade / Later it moved to Tuy Hoa in November 1970 and then to Pleiku in January 1972 / The group had the mission of commanding and controlling all non-divisional assets in II Corps Tactical Zone, under I Field Force / The 10th, 14th, 52d, 223rd and 268th Aviation Battalions as well as the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry served with the group

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

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KELLEHER**  
**JOSEPH**

**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:**

Joseph Kelleher honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Kelleher was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KELLER**

**JOHN**

**L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** SMN

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Seaman John L. Keller honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KELLER

ROBERT E.

**Hometown:** ALDEN

**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:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Robert E. Keller honorably served in the United States Navy / LT Robert Keller was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Keller was a partner in the law firm of Smith, Keller, Miner & O'Shea, and a member of the Erie County Bar Association and the New York State Trial Lawyers Association / Robert E. Keller passed away on 19 July 2025 at the age of 83 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KELLER**

**ROBERT E.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**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:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Robert E. Keller honorably served in the United States Navy / LT Robert Keller was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Keller was a partner in the law firm of Smith, Keller, Miner & O'Shea / Robert Keller was a member of the Erie County Bar Association and the New York State Trial Lawyers / Robert E. Keller passed away on 19 July 2025 at the age of 83 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KELLY**

**BRIAN F.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 1751 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

KOREAN MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP (KMAG)

NIKE ARTILLERY BATTERY

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Brian F. Kelly honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Brian Kelly was attached to the Korean Military Advisory group (KMAG) near Busan, Korea / SP4 Brian Kelly spent 13 months in Korea as a Classified Document Specialist and Ration Card Administrator

**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)

Selfridge Air Force Base, Lake St. Clair, Michigan - Originally named Selfridge Army Air Base, it was created in 1917 and was named after Army 1st Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge who was killed while flying on a demonstration flight with Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1908, the first military casualty of flight / In 1947 the Selfridge Army Air Base was renamed Selfridge Air Force Base / During the Cold War era, Nike missiles were stationed at the base to guard the industrial might of the Detroit region

**Miscellaneous:**

Brian Kelly attended Orchard Park High School, graduating in 1958 / Kelly attended the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1958 through 1963 prior to military service / Before entering the Army, Brian Kelly went to work for the Chevrolet Tonawanda Foundry in 1961 and returned to the Foundry after his discharge, employed



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

as a Clerk, Safety Inspector and Safety Engineer / Kelly became a Safety Manager at Dunlop Tire Corp in 1982 and remained there until 1991 / Kelly went to work as a Safety Engineer for the West Valley Nuclear Service from 1991 until his retirement in 2002

The Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) (officially United States Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea) was a United States military unit of the Korean War / Following the end of World War II, the United States and the Soviet union split up the administration of Korea, with the United States taking charge of the southern half / Beginning in January 1946, the U.S. military government in the south began to form a Korean defense force and helped to train and provide logistic support for the Republic of Korea Army

Nike batteries were part of ARADCOM, the U.S. Army Air Defense Command / Placed strategically near cities throughout the country to prevent, "destruction of the centers of America's great retaliatory and productive might," the batteries defended against Soviet aggression / From 1954 until 1974, during the height of the Cold War, Nike Missiles guarded the New York area / The missiles were able to intercept long range Soviet Bear Bombers and destroy them while still over the ocean / Nineteen Nike Missile sites ringed New York City / Two of the missile sites and the Headquarters unit were located in what is now Gateway NRA / Fort Hancock (NY-56) and Fort Tilden (NY-49) operated from 1954 to 1974, while Fort Wadsworth was the Headquarters of the 52nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade from 1954 to 1960 / Soldiers assigned to the Nike Missile defenses worked in one of two locations within a site / They worked at the Missile Launch Area or the radar area, known as the Integrated Fire Control Area (IFC) / These soldiers lived at these locations in ready barracks when they were on 24-hour duty shifts / Fort Tilden and Fort Hancock were both considered double battery sites as they each had two missile batteries / Each battery had two underground storage rooms for a total of 4 magazines at each site / Each magazine room had a large elevator that raised and lowered missiles

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KELLY**

**ROGER E.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:** 126 PALMER AVENUE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Roger Edward Kelly honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / LCPL Roger Kelly was deployed to Vietnam on 23 October 1967 as a Rifleman / LCPL Roger Kelly was Killed In Action on 2 February 1968 from wounds suffered from small arms fire during a firefight with enemy elements in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

During the month of February 1968, the 1st Battalion continued to participate in Operation Kentucky with Company D under the operational control of the 9th Marines operating in the Cam Lo area along Routes 9 and 1 in northern Quang Tri Province / On February 2, elements of Company D at the Cam Lo District Headquarters came under a heavy ground attack by the NVA / Fighting continued until day break when the enemy withdrew / Five Marines were killed in action and thirteen were wounded, one of the casualties was LCPL Roger Kelly who was killed in the action by hostile gunshot wounds

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, South Carolina - Abbreviated as MCRD, Parris Island is an 8,095-acre military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina, approximately 5 miles south of Beaufort / MCRD Parris Island is used for United States Marine Corps Recruit Training of enlisted United States Marines / Recruits living east of the Mississippi River report there to receive initial training / Marines were first assigned to Parris Island on 26 June 1891 with military buildings and family quarters constructed between 1891 / World War I



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

formed the nucleus of the Parris Island and was officially designated a Recruit Depot / From 1941 to 1945, the Marines trained 204,509 recruits there, and at the time of the Japanese surrender, the Depot contained more than 20,000 recruits / The Korean War began in 1950, when 2,350 recruits were in training / From then until the 1st Marine Division withdrew from Korea, Parris Island drill instructors trained more than 138,000 recruits / In March 1952, the training load peaked at 24,424 recruits / The recruit tide again flooded during the years of the Vietnam War, reaching a peak training load of 10,979 during March 1966

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments

### *Miscellaneous:*

Roger Kelly graduated from Kenmore West Senior High School in 1966 / Kelly enlisted in the Marine Corps on 5 September 1968 / Roger Edward Kelly was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Roger Edward Kelly is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 36e, Line 76

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KELLY

THOMAS

G.

**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:**

Thomas G. Kelly honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Kelly was a member of American Legion Brounshidle Post #205 for 40 years / Thomas G. Kelly passed away on 24 March 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KEMPSKI, JR.**

**LONGIN T.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

2852ND AIR BASE GROUP

**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:**

Sergeant Longin Thomas Kempiski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Kempiski was deployed to Vietnam as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Longin T. Kempiski, Jr. was a member of Harvey D. Moran, Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

An Aircraft Maintenance Crewman prepares studies, evaluations, special reports, and records pertaining to aircraft maintenance, component repair, and related activities / Plans aircraft maintenance areas, components repair shops, and facilities / Applies production control, quality control, and other maintenance management principles and procedures to aircraft maintenance and shop operations

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KENCEL  
BRIAN**

**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:**

Brian Kencel honorably served in the United States Military / Brian Kencel was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KENNUTH**  
**RONALD W.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Ronald W. Kennuth honorably served in the United States Army National Guard / Sgt Kennuth was assigned to the 206th Military Police Company

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Kennuth was a retiree of the Town of Cheektowaga Parks Department / Kennuth was a member of the early Ford V8 Club, retired drummer with the Nickel City Band and was a Civil War Reenactor / Ronald W. Kennuth passed away on 27 October 2024 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at St. John's Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 206th Military Police Company is a subordinate unit of 102nd Military Police Battalion

The United States Army Military Police Corps (USAMPC) is the uniformed law enforcement branch of the United States Army / Investigations are conducted by Military Police Investigators under the Provost Marshal General's Office or Special Agents of the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) / United States Army Military Police units have combat zone responsibilities in addition to their law enforcement duties / These responsibilities include mounted and dismounted patrols, response force operations, area damage control, route reconnaissance, cordon and search operations, critical site security, and convoy and personnel escorts / Operationally, these duties fall under the "security and mobility support" discipline of the Military Police Corps



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KENYON**

**ROBERT L.**

**Hometown:** BOSTON

**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:**

Robert L. Kenyon honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert L. Kenyon passed away on 8 August 2024

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KEOHANE**

**JOSEPH J.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph J. Keohane honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Keohane also served in the U.S. Army Reserve until 1966

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Keohane attended St. Margaret's Elementary School and graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute / Keohane graduated from Canisius College, majoring in Economics, and was a sports reporter for the college newspaper / Joseph Keohane later earned a Master's Degree in Education at Buffalo State College / Keohane taught in the North Tonawanda School District for 35 years / Joseph Keohane was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Buffalo and the Buffalo Club in The Villages / Joseph J. Keohane passed away on 31 March 2015 at the age of 78 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KERNEN**

**GARY**

**L.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1973

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS INTREPID (CVS-11)

**Medals / Citations:**

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Gary L. Kernen honorably served in the United States Navy / Gary Kernen was assigned as an Aviation Electronics Technician and served aboard the USS Intrepid (CVS-11), an Essex-class Aircraft Carrier, for one year

Gary Kernen was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 23 January 1973

**Base Assignments:**

Norfolk, Virginia - Naval Station Norfolk, is a United States Navy base in Norfolk, Virginia / It supports naval forces in the United States Fleet Forces Command, those operating in the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and the Indian Ocean / The installation occupies about 4 miles of waterfront space and 11 miles of pier and wharf space of the Hampton Roads peninsula known as Sewell's Point / It is the world's largest naval station, with the largest concentration of U.S. Navy forces through 75 ships alongside 14 piers and with 134 aircraft and 11 aircraft hangars at the adjacently operated Chambers Field / In 1968, the Naval Air Station was given a major role in John F. Kennedy's vision of putting a man on the moon / The air station became Recovery Control Center Atlantic, which provided command, control, and communications for the ships and aircraft that participated in the recovery operations of Apollo 7

**Miscellaneous:**

Gary Kernen was a member and retired from IBEW Union #41 in Orchard Park, NY / Gary L. Kernen passed away on 3 October 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Aviation Electronics Technicians are carefully trained to maintain all aviation electronic systems, from navigation and radar to tactical displays and warfare sensors / Aviation Electronics Technicians maintain, troubleshoot, repair and test complex electronic systems related to aviation on tactical jets, fixed wing aircraft or rotary winged helicopter systems / Technicians work with systems including digital computers, fiber optics, infrared detection, radar, laser electronics, navigation, pressure indication, and electrical power generation and distribution

USS Intrepid (CV/CVA/CVS-11), also known as The Fighting "I", is one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II for the United States Navy / She is the fourth US Navy ship to bear the name / Commissioned in August 1943, Intrepid participated in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, including the Battle of Leyte Gulf / Decommissioned shortly after the end of World War II, she was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), and then eventually became an antisubmarine carrier (CVS) / In her second career, she served mainly in the Atlantic, but also participated in the Vietnam War / She was the recovery ship for a Mercury and a Gemini space mission / Because of her prominent role in battle, she was nicknamed "the Fighting I", while her frequent bad luck and time spent in dry dock for repairs, she was torpedoed once and hit in separate attacks by four Japanese kamikaze aircraft, earned her the nicknames "Decrepit" and "the Dry I" / Decommissioned for the second time in 1974, she was put into service as a museum ship in 1982 as the foundation of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex in New York City

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KERR**

**JOSEPH P.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** LT COL

**Year Entered:** 1961

**Year Discharged:** 1984

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Patrick Kerr honorably served in the United States Army / Lt Col Kerr was stationed in Korea, Vietnam, Germany and several posts within the United States / LT COL Joseph Kerr was awarded the Bronze Star meritorious service in a combat zone / LT COL Kerr served as a Liaison Officer with the U.S. Military Liaison Mission in a divided Berlin, Germany, providing surveillance of the Soviet-occupied sector of East Germany / LT COL Joseph Kerr served as a commissioned officer until his retirement in 1984

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Kerr was born in Buffalo and moved to Grand Island / Kerr attended Canisius High School and graduated from Canisius College / Joseph Kerr worked with the Defense Intelligence Agency in a civilian capacity until 2005, supporting its efforts for arms control / Kerr was an integral part of the U.S. delegation for the CFE Treaty negotiations in Vienna Austria and was awarded the DIA Director's Award for Exceptional Civilian Service / Joseph Kerr also worked as an arms control consultant with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) until 2024, earning the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement / After his retirement, Kerr moved to Washington, D.C. / Joseph Patrick Kerr passed away on 24 January 2024 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

is authorized for wear on the medal

The Legion of Merit Medal is conferred on officers and enlisted men of the armed forces of the United States and on nationals of other countries who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services since Sept. 8, 1939, the date of the president's proclamation of the state of emergency that led to World War II / The Legion of Merit may be awarded for combat or noncombat services; in the case of American military personnel, if the award is for combat service it is shown by the wearing of a combat V device

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KERWIN**

**BRIAN**

**L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Brian L. Kerwin honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Brian Kerwin was active with the Boy Scouts of America / Kerwin was employed by the Veterans Administration until his retirement / Brian L. Kerwin passed away on 7 July 2024 at the age of 75 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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KESTER**

**RICHARD L.**

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:** 1079 CHURCH ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, 4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY, E COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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 Richard Lee Kester honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Richard Kester was deployed to Vietnam on 12 November 1969 as an Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman / SP4 Richard Kester was Killed In Action on 3 June 1970 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Kester was a member of the Evans Center Volunteer Fire Company, the Evans Center Rescue Squad and the Big Moose Rod and Gun Club / Richard Lee Kester was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Avenue Cemetery, Angola, New York

Richard Lee Kester is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 09w, Line 5

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 196th Infantry Brigade was first organized in 1921 as an element of the Army Reserve's 98th Division with the mission to train soldiers / During World War II, the 98th Division arrived in Hawaii in April 1944, and was given the mission of defending Kauai and Maui initially; later it was made responsible for the defense of Oahu / In May 1945, the division began intensive training in preparation for its role in the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before the unit could leave Hawaii / It went to Japan for occupation duty, where it was inactivated in February 1946 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade was raised again at Fort Devens, MA in September 1965 and originally scheduled to be sent to the Dominican Republic in mid-1966, but was rushed to Vietnam instead and posted in the western portion of the III Corps Tactical Zone / It initiated Operation Attleboro into War Zone C of Tay Ninh Province, which developed into a major action after a large enemy base camp was uncovered, 19 October 1966 / In April 1967 the brigade was selected, along with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to form a provisional division-sized unit called Task Force OREGON and moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone / The brigade stayed with this command, which was converted into the 23d Infantry Division (AMERICAL) 25 September 1967 / The 196th Light Infantry Brigade officially joined this division, 15 February 1969 / It operated throughout northern Vietnam, and after the division closed out of Vietnam, 29 November 1971, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted as a separate (provisional) brigade-sized element to safeguard the same area of operations / In April 1971 the brigade was relocated to Da Nang for major port security duties / It finally departed Vietnam as the last U.S. Army combat brigade to leave in Increment XII of the U.S. Army withdrawal / The 198th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on 15 May 2007 at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia to serve as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KESTER**  
**ROGER**

**Hometown:** ANGOLA

**Address:** 1079 CHURCH ROAD

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Roger Kester honorably served in the United States Air Force

The bother of Roger Kester, SP4 Richard Kester, was killed in action on 3 June 1970 from enemy artillery fire during combat operations in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KIELICH**

**ALBERT J.**

**Hometown:** EAST AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** O-3

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** 1957

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Albert J. Kielich honorably served in the United States Army / Captain Albert Kielich served as a Dental Officer at Fort Gordon, Georgia

Captain Albert Kielich was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 10 August 1957

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dr. Albert Kielich, DDS ran a successful dental practice in Kenmore, New York, for over 35 years / Albert J. Kielich passed away on 27 July 2022 at the age of 92 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KILGER**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RM3C

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Radioman Third-Class Robert J. Kilger honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Navy Radioman (RM) was a rating for United States Navy and United States Coast Guard enlisted personnel, specializing in communications technology / The Radiomen of the US Navy were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / They were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KINDEL**

**JAMES C.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:** 731 MAPLE AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CAPT

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

13TH AIR FORCE, 505TH TSG, 21ST TASS

**Medals / Citations:**

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AIR MEDAL W/4 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain James Carl Kindel honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain James Kindel was deployed to Vietnam on 28 August 1965 as a Tactical Aircraft Pilot / Captain James Kindel died on 14 December 1965 when his aircraft crashed in Tuyen Duc Province, South Vietnam

Captain James Kindel was shot down over Tuyen Duc Province in Vietnam while flying an unarmed reconnaissance mission just before Christmas 1965 / With complete disregard for his personal safety, Captain Kindel continued to fly above a Viet Cong patrol, keeping them under surveillance and relaying their position to approaching friendly forces / While making a final pass, he took small arms fire from the patrol and crashed / Captain Kindel was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal w/4 Oak Leaf Clusters for acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight

Captain Kindel had 10 years of service and served 109 days in combat

After completing Pilot and Navigator training in 1956, James Kindel was assigned to the Strategic Air Command as a Bomber Pilot / Kindel graduated from Squadron Officer School in 1961 and later assigned as Project Manager in the Design Division Office, Office of the deputy Chief of Staff

**Base Assignments:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama - Maxwell AFB, officially known as Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, is a United States Air Force (USAF) located in Montgomery, Alabama, United States / Occupying the site of the first Wright Flying School, it was named in honor of Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, a native of Atmore, Alabama / The base is the headquarters of Air University (AU), a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC), and is the U.S. Air Force's center for Joint Professional Military Education (PME) / The field served as a repair depot during World War I and trained U.S. military aviators and their support teams for wartime service during World War II

Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee - Arnold AFB is a United States Air Force base located in Coffee and Franklin counties, Tennessee, adjacent to the city of Tullahoma / It is named for General Henry "Hap" Arnold, the father of the U.S. Air Force / The base is home to the Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC), the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world / The center operates 58 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells, space environmental chambers, arc heaters, ballistic ranges and other specialized units

### *Miscellaneous:*

James Kindel was a graduate of Orchard Park High School and Alfred University / Kindel joined the U.S. Air Force after earning his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Buffalo in 1954 / James Carl Kindel was 35 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, New York

James Carl Kindel is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04e, Line 16

The forward air controllers were acknowledged as having one of the most dangerous flying jobs in the in-country war in South Vietnam / The small, low-powered, slow and low-flying aircraft were frequent targets for ground fire

The Thirteenth Expeditionary Air Force (13 EAF) is a provisional numbered air force of the United States Air Force Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Hickam Air Force Base, Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam on the island of Oahu, Hawaii / It has never been stationed in the continental United States / The command plans, commands and controls, delivers, and assesses air, space, and information operations in the Asia-Pacific region, excluding the Korea theater of operations, across the security spectrum from peacetime engagement to major combat operations / Established on 14 December 1942 at Plaine Des Gaiacs Airfield, on New Caledonia, 13 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat air force deployed to the Pacific Theater of World War II / It engaged in operations primarily in the South Pacific, attacking enemy forces in the Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaigns; Mariana and Palau Islands campaigns and the Philippines campaign (1944–45) / During the Korean War, its units provided staging areas for people and equipment destined for the war zone / As the Vietnam War escalated during the late 1960s and early 1970s, 13th AF provided command and control for USAF units stationed in Thailand, its units conducting combat missions throughout Indochina until August 1973 / 13 AF units last engaged in combat during the SS Mayaguez Incident in May 1975 / The 13th Air Force returned to the Philippines after the Vietnam War ended in 1975

The 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron (21st TASS) was a U.S. Air Force forward air control squadron / It was organized on 8 May 1965 and was assigned to the 2nd Air Division and attached to the 6250th Tactical Air



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Support Group (Provisional) at Pleiku Air Base in South Vietnam / On 8 November 1965, the squadron was reassigned to the 505th Tactical Control Group, which was headquartered at Tan Son Nhut Airport near Saigon / The 505th provided administrative and logistical support to the 21st / In September 1966, the 21st was relocated to Nha Trang Air Base where it was attached to the 14th Air Commando Wing / On 8 December 1966, the 21st was reassigned the 504th Tactical Air Support Group / The headquarters for the squadron remained at Nha Trang until October 1969 when it was moved to Cam Ranh Bay Air Base / Its final move was back to the 377th Air Base Wing at Tan Son Nhut on 15 March 1972 / During combat missions in Vietnam, the 21st TASS lost 58 aircraft / Air crew casualties over the course of the war totaled at least 29 KIA, one captured and held POW, and one injured in a flying accident / The 21 TASS was inactivated on 23 February 1973 at Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KING

LEROY E.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** RYAN STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

6910TH SECURITY WING

6970TH SUPPORT GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT

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

**Service Notes:**

Leroy E. King honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas - Construction on Lackland Air Force Base began on 15 June 1941, and it was originally part of Kelly Field / On 3 Feb 1948, the facility was named Lackland AFB after Brigadier General Frank Lackland, who was commissioned into the regular Army after serving in the National Guard, District of Columbia / Lackland is best known for its role in being the sole location for U.S. Air Force enlisted Basic Military Training (BMT) for the active duty Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Fort George Meade, Maryland - Created in 1917, Ft. Meade was named for George G. Meade, a general from the U.S. Civil War, who served as commander of the Army of the Potomac / Although a United States Army installation, it is also the home to the National Security Agency / The Fort also houses the Defense Information School, the Defense Media Activity, the United States Army Field Band, and the headquarters of United States Cyber Command, the Defense Courier Service, and Defense Information Systems Agency headquarters / The 6970th Support Group was transferred from Washington, DC to Ft. Meade in 1956

Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne, Darmstadt, Germany - Cambrai Fritsch Kaserne (CFK) was built in 1936 and was originally two kasernes / The western part called Cambrai Kaserne named after a tank battle which took place in Cambrai, France during World War I / The eastern part was Fritsch Kaserne named after General Werner von Fritsch, the commanding general of the German Army in 1935 / In March 1945, the US Army took over the kaserne and the US Army Quartermaster school was housed here until 1950 / Cambrai-Fritsch Kaserne is home



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

to Headquarters, 233rd Base Support Battalion, Headquarters, 22nd Signal Brigade and 440th Signal Battalion and the 6910th Support Group / Cambrai-Fritsch-Kaserne was shut down in 2008

## *Miscellaneous:*

Leroy E. King graduated from Lackawanna Senior High School in 1965 / King worked at the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna, New York prior to entering the United States Air Force in 1967 / After his Honorable Discharge, King returned to Bethlehem Steel and enrolled in the State University College of Buffalo / After working for several companies as a computer analyst and programmer, Leroy King founded his own computer programming business, King Consultants / Leroy King retired from his programming company and is currently a member of American Legion Post #735

Initially established as the Air Force (USAF) Security Group in June, 1948, the USAF Security Service (USAFSS) was activated as a major command on 20 October 1948 / The USAFSS was a secretive branch of the Air Force tasked with monitoring, collecting and interpreting military voice and electronic signals of countries of interest (primarily Soviet and their satellite Eastern bloc countries) / USAFSS intelligence was often analyzed in the field, and the results transmitted to the National Security Agency for further analysis and distribution to other intelligence recipients / USAFSS was tasked to carry out a cryptologic mission and to provide communications security for the newly-established Air Force

The USAFSS gained its first two units above squadron level, the 6910th Security Group (SG) at Brooks AFB, Tex., on 23 May 1951 and the 6920 SG on 1 September at Johnson AB, Japan / The 6910th moved to Germany later in July with its headquarters stationed at Wiesbaden and group operations stationed at Darmstadt in 1951 / Another era in USAFSS mission operations ended on 30 June when the 6910 SG at Augsburg, Germany, and the 6994 SS at Ubon, AFS, Thailand, inactivated / The 6910 SG had served as the command's main operator in Europe since December 1953 / The 6940 SS played a similar role for USAFSS in Vietnam during the war / At one time, the 6994 SS and its detachments operated the mission equipment on some 48 EC-47 aircraft in South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand / The 6910 SG moved from Darmstadt to Augsburg in Germany in 1972

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KINGAN  
DENNIS

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KINGSLAND**

**RONALD H.**

**Hometown:** **BLASDELL**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

37TH SUPPLY SQUADRON, PACIFIC AIR FORCES

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (SMALL ARMS)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Ronald H. Kingsland honorably served in the United States Air Force / SGT Ronald Kingsland was deployed to Vietnam for 12 months as a Fuel Specialist

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Kingsland graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1964 / Ronald Kingsland was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 14 March 1968 and began his career with the New York State Department Of Transportation (NYSDOT) / Kingsland was also bartender at Buffalo Raceway and Bills Stadium, until he retired in 2009 / Ronald H. Kingsland passed away on 25 January 2024 at the age of 77 years old

A Fuel Specialist manages the petroleum needs for the Air Force mission using specialized dispensing facilities and equipment / Ensures quality petroleum product, cryogenic fluids, and missile propellants are received, stored, and issued safely and efficiently to aircraft, vehicles, and equipment / Job Tasks: Directs receipt, storage, transfer, and issue operations for various fuel products / Performs technical fuels functions and oversees unit personnel readiness / Manages and maintains storage and dispensing facilities, records, quality control, and preventative maintenance inspections

The 37th Supply Squadron was activated on 8 April 1953 / The 37th Supply Squadron Served in Qui Nhon Airfield, South Vietnam, 15 October 1966 and Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 4 September 1966 through 31 Mar



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

1970

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KITCHENS II**

**JACK**

**C.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RD2

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Radarman 2nd-Class Jack Conroy Kitchens II honorably served in the United States Navy / RD-2 was assigned to the United States Naval Reserve as a Naval Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman (SWCC), part of Seal Team 2 with Coastal Squadron 1/Coastal Surveillance 1 / RD2 Jack Kitchens Kitchens also served during the Cuban Missile Crisis

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jack Kitchens II graduated from the University of Buffalo with multiple Bachelor of Science degrees in mechanical, electrical, chemical engineering and computer science, with minors in metallurgy and rubber technology / Kitchens taught nursing chemistry at Auburn College / Kitchens became a world expert in Ultrasound and Piezoelectric Physics / Jack Kitchens II was awarded Inventor of the Year and had over 200 registered patents / Kitchens, using his pen name Henry C. Savage, wrote a book "Ultrasound & Piezoelectric Physics for Engineers: A Primer with Applications and Examples" / Jack Kitchens worked as an engineer for many companies, including Pierce and Stevens Corp., Sierra Research, LTV Aerospace and Defense Co., Viatran, UltraScan and Qualcomm/ Jack Conroy Kitchens II passed away at the age of 76 years old on 22 November 2022 / Jack Kitchens II is interred at Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, New York

The United States Navy, Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) Team are the Navy's primary special operations force and a component of the Naval Warfare Command / Among the SEALs main function are conducting small-unit special operation missions in maritime, jungle, urban, arctic, mountainous, and desert environments / SEALs are typically ordered to capture or kill high level targets or to gather intelligence behind enemy lines



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Navy SWCCs are members of the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community comprising of those who take on the most impossible missions and the most elusive objectives

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLEIN**  
**DAVID**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

David Klein honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

David Klein passed away on 5 December 2024 at the age of 77 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLEIN**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Klein honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Klein passed away on 19 August 2022

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLINSHAW**

**NORBERT J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

129TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Norbert J. "Norb" Klinshaw honorably served in the United States Army / Norbert Klinshaw was assigned as a crew Chief and gunner in the Army's 129th Assault Helicopter Company / Norbert Klinshaw was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Norbert J. Klinshaw went to work for Bethlehem Steel as a steelworker before his retirement / Klinshaw joined the Winchester Fire Company and served as a Volunteer Fireman for 57 years / Norbert J. "Norb" Klinshaw passed away on 29 March 2021 at the age of 75 years old

The 129th Aviation Company was formed July 3rd 1965 and was activated July 5th 1965 at Fort Campbell , Kentucky / The 129th Aviation Company served in Vietnam from 21 October 1965 to 8th March 1973 / The 129th was assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion which arrived in Vietnam on 29th October 1965 / The primary mission of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company was to provide tactical air movement of the U.S. and allied troops in connection with counter-insurgency operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam / The secondary mission of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company was to provide tactical air movement of supplies and equipment within the tactical area of responsibility

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KLIPICH

MICHAEL S.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1976

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael S. Klipich honorably served in the United States Army Reserve / Michael also served from 1984 - 1987

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Klipich was born in Welland, Ontario, Canada / Michael Klipich worked for Rich Products Corporation from 1979-1991 as an Audio/Visual Coordinator and did contract work for many Western New York companies until he retired in 2013 / Michael S. Klipich passed away on 28 January 2026 at the age of 75 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLISZAK**  
**CASIMER**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Casimer Kliszak honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Casimer Kliszak played the concertina in several bands and was a member of the Buffalo Polka Boosters Club / Kliszak was an inductee of the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame / Casimer "Casey" Kliszak passed away on 15 January 2025 at the age of 85 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLOS, JR.**

**DANIEL E.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 1160 CLEVELAND DRIVE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE, 37TH SIGNAL BATTALION, B COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Daniel Edmund Klos, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Daniel Klos was deployed to Vietnam on 12 February 1967 as a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator / SP4 Daniel Klos was Killed In Action 12 November 1967 from an enemy explosive device while conducting combat operations in Quang Nam province, South Vietnam

SP4 Daniel Klos died in an explosion from a land mine under an Army vehicle in which he was riding near Hoi An, South Vietnam / Klos was first reported missing, but his body was later recovered

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

## *Miscellaneous:*

Daniel Klos graduated from Infant of Prague (elementary school) and Maryvale High School / Klos worked for Twin Industries Corp before joining the U.S. Army on 25 July 1966 / Daniel Edmund Klos, Jr. was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mt Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Daniel Edmund Klos, Jr. is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 29e, Line 83

A Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator supervises, installs, operates and performs maintenance checks and services on manual or automated tactical multichannel communications equipment / Assign duties, coordinates and supervises activities of assigned personnel to include resolution of problems in communications operations in employment of Wire and Cable Systems; Switchboard Systems Radio Teletype Communications; Radio Relay Communications; Tactical Satellite Communications; Multichannel and Microwave Communications; Issues communications-electronics operating instructions (CEOI) and plans frequency / The operator also maintains communications situation maps, overlays and presents briefings on same; determines capabilities and limitations of assigned equipment; profiles line-on-sight radio transmission paths and tropospheric scatter radio transmission paths allocation and management; plans and prepares communications systems diagrams; supervises the displacement of manual and automated communications systems equipment and switching centers

The 1st Signal Brigade was activated on 1 April 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam / The brigade's mission in Vietnam was to originate, install, operate, and maintain a complex communication system that fused tactical and strategic communications in Southeast Asia under a single, unified command / The formation of the brigade brought together three signal groups that were already in South Vietnam / At the peak of the Vietnam War the brigade consisted of more than 21,000 soldiers, in six Signal groups (including the 160th Signal Group), 22 signal battalions and several communications agencies, making the 1st Signal Brigade the largest signal unit in the U.S. Army at the time

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

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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLOSIN**  
**DONALD**

**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:**

Donald Klosin honorably served in the United States Military / Donald Klosin was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KLUBEK

LOUIS

D.

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 OVERSEAS BARS

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1960 DEVICE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Louis D. Klubek honorably served in the United States Army / Louis Klubek was assigned as a Laundry Specialist and deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Louis D. Klubek passed away on 1 September 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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

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

An Overseas Service Bar indicates a soldier has served six months of service in a combat zone / Service Bars are



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

cumulative, in that each bar worn indicates another six-month period / Time spent overseas is also cumulative, meaning one bar could be earned for two separate deployments totaling six months

The 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

**Name:** KLUBEK

THOMAS J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas J. Klubek honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Klubek was a lifetime member of the Matthew Glab American Legion Post #1477 and the WNY Mopar Club / Thomas J. Klubek passed away on 28 November 2025 at the age of 79 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KLUCK**

**JOSEPH**

**D.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-4

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1962

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Joseph D. Kluck honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNAUS**

**RICHARD A.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:** 54 FREDA AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, 2ND BATTALION, 19TH ARTILLERY, BATTERY B

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Richard A. Knaus honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Richard Knaus was deployed to Vietnam on 3 May 1966 as an Airborne Qualified Field Artillery Basic with the 1st Cavalry / SP4 Richard Knaus was Killed In Action on 27 December 1966 from small arms fire during combat action near LZ (landing zone) Bird the Crow's Foot - Kim Son River, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of 27 December 1966, three North Vietnamese Army battalions of the 22nd Regiment used a two-day Christmas truce to move into position for a surprise attack on LZ Bird, an U.S. Army artillery base adjacent to the Kim Son River in Binh Dinh Province, RVN / LZ Bird was defended by only part of C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, which was providing security for 1st Cavalry howitzers of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery (105mm guns) and C Battery, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery (155mm guns) / The combined American strength at LZ Bird was 170 personnel / The NVA attack, estimated at 1000-man strong, began supported by mortar, recoilless-rifle, and machine gun fire / They broke through the perimeter and occupied some of the American gun positions / The 1st Cavalry soldiers fought back, with some of the fighting dissolving into hand-to-hand warfare / A number of the 105mm guns were cranked down to pointblank range, and "beehive" rounds sliced through the attackers like scythes, effectively stopping the assault in its tracks / This and armed CH-47 Chinook helicopter gunship support stalled the NVA momentum, and they began to withdraw / One account of enemy dead was assessed at a total of 211 NVA killed (body count) in and around the LZ / The American losses were 28 killed and 67 wounded



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Private First-Class Knaus distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 27 December 1966, while serving as an assistant gunner in a howitzer section of Battery B, 2d Battalion, 19th Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, during a combat support mission in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam / During a heavy attack by two battalions of North Vietnamese which was preceded by a violent mortar barrage, Private First-Class Knaus and other members of his section continued to remain at their howitzer, firing directly into the onrushing enemy / When the numerically superior North Vietnamese force began to overrun Private First-Class Knaus' section, a command to withdraw to a safer position was given / At this time, a fellow member of the section and close friend of Private First-Class Knaus jumped into the parapet and refused to evacuate the position / Private First-Class Knaus immediately jumped into the parapet and attempted to get his friend to withdraw with the others / When the man still refused to leave the area, Private First-Class Knaus, with complete disregard for his own safety, remained at the position and continued to protect both his friend and himself by placing a heavy volume of small arms fire on the enemy / After he had expended all of his ammunition, he threw himself on top of his comrade, sacrificing his own life in a final attempt to save the life of a fellow soldier / For his gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States, PFC Knaus was awarded the Silver Star

### *Base Assignments:*

### *Miscellaneous:*

Richard Knaus graduated from Cheektowaga Central High School in 1964 and was drafted into the U.S Army on 26 October 1965 / Richard A. Knaus was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Richard A. Knaus is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 13e, Line 84

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

The 19th Field Artillery Regiment is a Field Artillery regiment of the United States Army first formed in 1916

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNEZEVIC**

**THOMAS J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas J. "TK" Knezevic honorably served in the United States Army / Thomas Knezevic was deployed to Vietnam as a Light Weapons Infantryman / Thomas Knezevic was assigned to the 6th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade in Vietnam at Base LZ Bayonet, near Chu Lai / Thomas Knezevic was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Thomas Knezevic received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 28 January 1971

**Base Assignments:**

Chu Lai, Vietnam - Located approximately 56 miles southeast of Da Nang, Chu Lai was a U.S. military base from 1965 to 1971 during the Vietnam War / Originally established by the Marines, the base was handed over to the U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon in April 1967 and subsequently became the headquarters and base area for the 23rd Americal Division from September 1967 until November 1971

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Knezevic retired from the Ford Stamping Plant / Thomas J. "TK" Knezevic passed away on 16 May 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 198th Infantry Brigade, was first formed as part of the United States Army Reserve's 99th Division / It was active from 1967 through 1971 and has been active since 2007 as an Infantry Training Brigade as part of the US Army Infantry School at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia / During the years of 1967–1971, as part of the Vietnam War, the 198th was part of the United States Army's 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division / In 1968, elements of the 198th Infantry Brigade participated in the Battle of Kham Duc / Reactivated on 15 May 2007, the 198th Infantry Brigade now serves as an Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning), Georgia with the mission to train and prepare infantry soldiers for their critical roles in the U.S. Army

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNIGHT**

**BRYAN T.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 300 FENCH STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, 75TH INFANTRY LRRP, L COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Bryan Theotis Knight honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Bryan Knight was deployed to Vietnam on 8 January 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Bryan Knight was Killed In Action on 11 May 1970 from enemy small arms fire suffered during combat operations in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

On 11 May 1970, Ranger Team Kansas was providing radio relay and reconnaissance for LRRP (Long-range reconnaissance patrol) teams attached to the 101st Airborne inserted in the A Shau Valley, one of the key entry points into South Vietnam for men and materiel brought along the Ho Chi Minh Trail by the Communist North Vietnamese Army / The team consisted of six members: SGT Raymond D. Ellis, SSGT Robert L. O'Connor, SGT Gary P. Baker, SGT David Munoz, CPL George E. Fogleman, and PFC Bryan T. Knight / Less than a kilometer away in thick bamboo stands was a LRRP team monitoring an enemy high speed trail a few feet away from their concealed position / While on watch, one of the LRRP team members heard the faint sound of automatic weapons fire coming from the direction of the Kansas team / Listing intently, a few minutes later he then heard what sounded like six single pistol shots spaced about ten seconds apart / Concerned, the LRRP member tried to raise the Kansas team's radio operator, but got no answer / After several unsuccessful attempts to call the team, the LRRP member called the TOC (tactical operations center) which deployed an OH-6A "Loach" to establish contact with the missing radio relay team / The Loach pilot reported that he'd spotted what appeared to be six bodies sprawled across a trail / A Ranger team was dispatched to the radio relay team's position / The



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

six Kansas team members lay dead, each with a gunshot wound to the head and each man's skull crushed with a rifle butt / No one was sure what occurred, but what was surmised is that a small number of NVA had simply walked right up and killed them instantly / The enemy had probably been watching the team for days, waiting for the right time to make their move / Three piles of empty brass cartridges surrounded the bodies, indicating only three NVA soldiers had carried out the shooting / All the American's weapons were gone but their web gear and ruck sacks and radio were still there, and their pockets were inside out / A group of 20 men from B Troop, 17th Cavalry was inserted to help with the recovery of their slain comrades / The incident spooked a lot of the Rangers and had a devastating effect on the company / A week later, a Ranger team was inserted in the same AO (area of operations) / While surveying the abandoned former Firebase Whip, the team ambushed and killed two NVA soldiers / After searching the dead soldier's bodies, they found evidence that the two had been responsible for the tragedy which befell the radio relay team Kansas / The Rangers avenged the death of their brothers-in-arms

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Bryan Knight was a 1966 graduate of Riverside High School and attended Bryant and Stratton Business School / Knight was employed by St. Regis Paper Company prior to entering the U.S. Army / Bryan Theotis Knight was and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Bryan Theotis Knight is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 10w, Line 18

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

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) (officially 75th Infantry Regiment or 75th Infantry) was initially a parent regiment for all the US Army Ranger units during the Vietnam War and the early 1980s and then the headquarters for the Ranger battalions / On 1 February 1969, as part of the U.S. Army Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS), all U.S. Army Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) units were reorganized as the 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) / Fifteen Ranger companies were formed from reconnaissance units in Europe and Vietnam with lineage to Merrill's Marauders (5307th Composite Unit) / The Ranger companies were composed of small, heavily armed long range reconnaissance teams that patrolled deep in enemy-held territory / Each independent company was attached to a separate division or brigade and acted as the eyes and ears of those units / Rangers collected intelligence, discovered enemy troop locations, surveilled trails and enemy hot spots, directed artillery and air strikes, performed bomb damage assessments, and conducted ambushes / Additionally, Rangers attempted to recover prisoners of war, capture enemy soldiers for interrogation, tap the wire communications of the North Vietnam Army and the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (Vietcong) on the Ho Chi Minh trail, and mine enemy trails and roads

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNIGHT**  
**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 "Jack" Knight honorably served in the United States Military / John Knight was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNIGHT**  
**JOSEPH**

**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:**

Joseph Knight honorably served in the United States Military / Joseph Knight was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KNOWLES

RONALD 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:**

Ronald J. Knowles honorably served in the United States Army and Army Reserve / Knowles served in an Infantry Unit

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Knowles was a 1956 graduate of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo and graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Management in 1960 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S Army, Knowles began his career with the Bell System in 1962 at the Western Electric Company Buffalo Works in Tonawanda, New York / After the Tonawanda plant closed, Ronald Knowles transferred to the AT&T Teletype facility in Little Rock, Arizona, serving as a Manufacturing Manager until retirement in 1995 with over 34 years of service / Ronald J. Knowles passed away on 29 September 2024 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Pinecrest Memorial Park, Alexander, Arkansas

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNOWLES, JR.**

**BRYANT**

**C.**

**Hometown:** NORTH TONAWANDA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1972

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "B", 1ST BATTALION, 36TH INFANTRY

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/"V" DEVICE

PARACHUTE BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (MACHINE GUN)

AIR MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/60 DEVICE

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

PATHFINDER BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) Bryant Chase Knowles, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Bryant Knowles was assigned as Light Weapons Infantryman / CPL Bryant Knowles, Jr. was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service under combat conditions

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Rucker, Alabama - Fort Rucker (Formerly Camp Rucker) is a U.S. Army post located primarily in Dale County, Alabama, United States / Opened on 1 May 1942, it was named for a Civil War officer, Confederate General Edmund Rucker / The post is the primary flight training installation for U.S. Army Aviators and is home to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) and the United States Army Aviation Museum / Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of units of less than division size; these included tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units / During the latter part of the Second World War, several hundred German and a few Italian prisoners-of-war were housed in stockades near the railroad east of the warehouse area, on the southern edge of the post / The 91st Infantry Division was sent to Camp Rucker at the end of the war, being deactivated in December 1945 / Camp Rucker was inactive from March 1946 until August 1950 / It was reopened during the Korean War / The name was changed to "Fort Rucker" in October 1955 / The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act calls for the establishment of an eight-person committee to develop a plan to remove all names, symbols, displays, and monuments that honor or commemorate the Confederacy from all Department of Defense assets, including Fort Rucker / In 2021, the Moore family started a petition to rename



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

the fort in honor of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black brigadier general in the USAF

## *Miscellaneous:*

The 36th Armored Infantry was formed on 1 July 1916 at Brownsville, Texas from elements of the 4th Infantry, 26th Infantry and 28th Infantry

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 Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

and is qualified to participate in airborne operations

Created in 1944, the Pathfinder Badge is a military badge of the United States Army awarded to soldiers who complete the U.S. Army Pathfinder School at Fort Benning, Georgia / To be awarded the Pathfinder Badge, the soldier must complete Pathfinder instruction in advanced land navigation, advanced scouting, tactical air traffic control in the field, and the control of parachute operations; the badge is awarded on completing several examinations under field training exercise (FTX) conditions / Examinations include proficiency in sling load rigging and execution, planning and execution of helicopter landing zones (HLZ), air traffic control operations, aerial delivery of troops and supplies, and several others

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KNUTSEN**

**DONALD P.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 114 SAGE AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** MIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

AMERICAL DIVISION, 14TH AVIATION BATTALION, 176TH ASSLT HEL COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Donald Paul Knutsen honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Donald Knutsen was deployed to Vietnam on 6 November 1970 as a Single-Rotor Turbine Observation Utility Helicopter Repairman / SP4 Donald Knutsen was reported Missing In Action on 22 March 1971 when the helicopter he was riding was hit by enemy by enemy fire and crashed / The remains of SP4 Donald Knutsen were never recovered

On 22 March 1971, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 68-15759) from the 176th Assault Helicopter Company crashed after being hit by enemy fire during Operation Lam Son 719, a limited-objective offensive campaign conducted in the southeastern portion of the Kingdom of Laos / The aircraft crashed with the loss of all personnel aboard / The lost crew included aircraft commander WO1 Reginald Cleve, pilot WO1 John G. Traver III, crew chief SP4 Donald P. Knutsen, and gunner SP4 Walter R. Hall / The aircraft was in a flight of five helicopters conducting an emergency resupply mission / It was flying at an altitude of about 5000 feet above sea level in Savannakhet Province, Laos, when it was fired upon by a hostile ground force / An explosion occurred in the cargo compartment and the helicopter burst into flames and fell to earth / The aircraft impacted essentially in one piece and again exploded / No one was observed to exit the aircraft, and it was the opinion of the incident investigating committee that no one could have survived / No rescue attempts were made due to the heavy concentration of enemy troops and anti-aircraft fire in the area

Specialist Fourth-Class Donald Knutsen is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific / His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Donald Knutsen was a graduate of South Park High School / Knutsen attended Central Bible College in Springville, Missouri before being drafted into the U.S. Army in June 1969 / Donald Paul Knutsen was 21 years old at the time of his passing and a gravestone honoring Knutsen is located at Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

Donald Paul Knutsen is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 67

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

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

The 176th Assault Helicopter Company, also known as the "Minute Men, Muskets", played a significant role during the Vietnam War / The 176th Aviation Company (air-mobile light) was activated on 1 October 1965, at Fort Benning, Georgia / The company's mission was to provide aviation support to units of the Free World Military Forces and the Republic of Vietnam Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone / The advance party arrived in Vietnam at Bien Hoa on 8 February 1967 / After a brief stay at the 90th Replacement Company, they reported to the 12th Aviation Group and then to the Buffalo Battalion at Bear Cat / On 14 February 1967, the party signed into the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion at Lane Army Heliport and began building their base camp at Phu Hiep, which would later be known as Minuteman Manor / The 176th Aviation Company earned the nickname "Minutemen" due to their swift response and readiness / Their gunship flight was known as the "Muskets" and



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

played a crucial role during their service in Vietnam

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOCH**

**DONALD E.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1970

**Unit / Squadron:**

"B" BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 32ND FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: (M-14)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Donald E. Koch honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Donald Koch was deployed for 19 months of foreign service in Germany as a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist/Intelligence Assistant

SP4 Donald Koch was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 21 May 1970

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Koch graduated from Riverside High School in 1967 / Koch worked in maintenance for Kittinger Furniture and Comptek and later in customer service for Frontier Glass / Donald E. Koch passed away on 28 February 2023 at the age of 74 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 32nd Field Artillery Regiment is a distinguished and highly decorated field artillery regiment of the United States Army, first Constituted in 1918 / The 2nd Battery, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, the "Proud Americans", has existed, off and on, since 1918 / It has participated in World War II, Vietnam, and the current War on Terrorism

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOCSIS**

**ROBERT J.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

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

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Kocsis honorably served in the United States Navy and deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kocsis retired from General Motors Corp. / Robert J. Kocsis passed away on 20 March 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOCZKOWSKI**

**CARLTON 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:**

Carlton J. Kuczowski honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Carlton Kuczowski was employed by General Motors for 43 years / Carlton J. Kuczowski passed away on 19 July 2024



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOEHLER**

**DAVID J.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE CENTER

**Address:** 9210 CLARENCE CENTER ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

3RD MARINE DIVISION, 3RD BATTALION, 3RD MARINES, I COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class David James Koehler honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC David Koehler was deployed to Vietnam on 20 April 1969 as a Rifleman / PFC David Koehler was Killed In Action on 4 June 1969 as a result of enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Private First-Class David J. Koehler, United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Rifleman with Company I, Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam / On 4 June 1969, during Operation VIRGINIA RIDGE, while Company I was conducting a search and destroy operation west of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province, the Marines came under a heavy volume of small arms fire from a hostile force occupying well-concealed emplacements / During the initial moments of the engagement, the Marines sustained several casualties / Observing that his wounded companions were lying in positions dangerously exposed to the enemy fire, Private First Class Koehler unhesitatingly raced across the fire-swept terrain and pulled one of the men to a covered position just as a hand grenade detonated where his comrade had been / Again braving hostile fire, he re-entered the hazardous area to retrieve another injured man and while he was placing him in a relatively secure location, Private First Class Koehler was mortally wounded by small arms fire / His heroic and bold actions inspired all who observed him and saved the lives of two Marines



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

David Koehler graduated from Clarence Central High School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968 / David James Koehler was 20 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at St. Marys Cemetery, Swarmsville, New York

David James Koehler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23w, Line 62

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

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

The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, abbreviated as (3/3), was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps, based out of Kaneohe, Hawaii / Known as either "Trinity" or "America's Battalion", the unit normally fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / When fully manned, the unit consisted of approximately 1000 U.S. Marines and United States Navy Sailors / The battalion was originally formed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1942 and saw action on both Bougainville and Guam during World War II, where it was awarded its first Presidential Unit Citation and Navy Unit Commendation / Marines in the battalion were also awarded one Medal of Honor and seven Navy Crosses during the war / In 1965, the Marines of 3rd Battalion were deployed to the Vietnam War and participated in Operation Starlite, the first major Marine engagement of that conflict / The battalion continued to see major action through Vietnam and was rotated back to the United States in 1969 / Around the end of the Vietnam War, the Battalion was deactivated for a second time in 1974

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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Private First-Class David James Koehler also was awarded the following Military honor:

## GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOEHLER**

**WILLIAM**

**D.**

*Hometown:*

*Address:*

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

*Service Branch:* MARINE CORPS

*Rank:* SGT

*Year Entered:*

*Year Discharged:*

*Unit / Squadron:*

*Medals / Citations:*

PURPLE HEART

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

*Service Notes:*

Sergeant William D. Koehler honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT William Koehler was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat action

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

William Koehler was a Native American Sundancer / William D. Koehler, PhD passed away at the age of 72 years old on 6 March 2023

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOENIG**

**RICHARD E.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 50 BOSSE LANE

**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 E. Koenig honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard E. Koenig passed away on 10 January 2026 at the age of 85 years old

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOLBAS**

**RICHARD B.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS FRANCIS MARION (LPA-249)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Second- Class Richard B. Kolbas honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 Richard Kolbas was assigned as a Radioman onboard the USS Francis Marion

Petty Officer Second- Class Richard Kolbas was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 3 April 1972

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Kolbas was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy on 3 April 1972 / Richard B. Kolbas passed away on 14 September 2021

Navy Radioman (RM) was a rating for United States Navy and United States Coast Guard enlisted personnel, specializing in communications technology / The Radiomen of the US Navy were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / They were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas

USS Francis Marion (APA-249) was a Paul Revere-class attack transport of the United States Navy / The Francis Marion was named after the Revolutionary hero Francis Marion, also known as the Swamp Fox and was



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

commissioned 6 July 1961 / In October – November 1962, she served as part of the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis with units of the 8th Marine Regiment aboard / From 1969 through 1975 Francis Marion participated in numerous amphibious assault exercises in the Mediterranean and Caribbean / In November 1975, the ship's status was changed to a Naval Reserve Forces Ship and manned with a mix of USN and Naval Reserve personnel / On 16 May 1978 she carried 1,100 Marines to participate in Solid Shield 78 / In 1979 the Navy determined the Francis Marion was excess to the Navy's needs and she was decommissioned on 14 September 1979 / On 11 July 1980, the USS Francis Marion was sold to Spain under the Security Assistance Program and renamed Aragón (L-22)

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOMINAREK

JOHN F.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES (MCSS), MARINE CORPS BASE (MCB)

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 STARS

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMAN BADGE: (M-14 RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Corporal (E-4) John Frank Kominarek honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL John Kominarek was deployed to Vietnam and assigned as a General Warehouseman

**Base Assignments:**

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

**Miscellaneous:**

John F. Kominarek was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940 / John F. Kominarek passed away on 9 October 2015 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Elmlawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) is a comprehensive set of programs that support and enhance the operational readiness, war fighting capabilities, and life quality of Marines and their families / Its mission is to take care of Marines and their families by providing quality of life programs, products, and services in support of the Marine Corps objectives



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KONOPA**

**RAYMOND S.**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Raymond S. Konopa honorably served in the United States Navy / Raymond Konopa was assigned as a Navy Data Processing Technician and was deployed to Tan Son Nhut Airbase, South Vietnam for a 12 months tour of duty

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond S. Konopa passed away on 9 March 2025 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Marilla Cemetery, Marilla, New York

A Navy Data Processing Technician operates data processing equipment to record source data; sets up and operates data processing equipment, including card, magnetic tape, disk, computers, and peripherals / Data Processing Technicians perform the duties required to analyze ADP and EDP systems and subsystems; implements computer maintenance and diagnostic programs; designs input and output requirements for systems and subsystems

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

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The Joint Service Commendation Medal (JSCM) was authorized on June 25, 1963 and is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after January 1, 1963, distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement or service in a joint duty capacity / This award is intended for senior service on a joint military staff and is senior in precedence to service-specific Commendation Medals / As such, it is worn above the service Commendation Medals on a military uniform

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOPACZ**  
**RONALD**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ronald Kopacz honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald Kopacz passed away on 31 March 2024

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KORACH**  
**SAMUEL**

**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:**

Samuel Korach honorably served in the United States Military / Samuel Korach was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KORACH**  
**STEVEN**

**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:**

Steven Korach honorably served in the United States Military / Steven Korach was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Steven Korach graduated from Lackawanna High School in 1965

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

**Name:** **KORAL**

**JAMES J.**

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James J. Koral honorably served in the United States Navy / James Koral was deployed to Vietnam, assigned to the Naval Fire Brigade

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Koral joined Twin District Volunteer Fire Company in September 1995 after having served with Sloan Active Hose and Doyle Fire Company #2, where he also served as Fire Chief / Koral served many years as a New York State Fire Instructor / James J. Koral passed away on 28 June 2024 at the age of 76 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KORDASIEWICZ**

**HARRY J.**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**Address:** 46 WEST GIRARD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO3

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM 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:**

Petty Officer Third-Class Harry Jay Kordasiewicz honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Harry Kordasiewicz was deployed to Vietnam on 15 November 1967 as a Navy Medical Corpsman / PO3 Harry Kordasiewicz was Killed In Action on 6 April 1968 by a direct hit from a mortar attack during a fire fight in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Harry Kordasiewicz was a 1964 graduate of Kenmore East Senior High School / Kordasiewicz attended Niagara County Community College before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in December 1965 / Harry Jay Kordasiewicz was 21 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

Harry Jay Kordasiewicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48e, Line 29

Navy Medical Corpsman were the enlisted medical specialists of the Navy and Marine Corps / Medical Corpsman are military enlisted person trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment / The Medical Corps consists of commissioned medical officers who are physicians / A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment / U.S. Army Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders" of the Vietnam War

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

3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, abbreviated as (3/3), was an infantry battalion of the United States Marine Corps, based out of Kaneohe, Hawaii / Known as either "Trinity" or "America's Battalion", the unit normally fell under the command of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division / When fully manned, the unit consisted of approximately 1000 U.S. Marines and United States Navy Sailors / The battalion was originally formed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1942 and saw action on both Bougainville and Guam during World War II, where it was awarded its first Presidential Unit Citation and Navy Unit Commendation / Marines in the battalion were also awarded one Medal of Honor and seven Navy Crosses during the war / In 1965, the Marines of 3rd Battalion were deployed to the Vietnam War and participated in Operation Starlite, the first major Marine engagement of that conflict / The battalion continued to see major action through Vietnam and was rotated back to the United States in 1969 / Around the end of the Vietnam War, the Battalion was deactivated for a second time in 1974

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

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

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The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The U.S. Navy first authorized the Combat Action Ribbon on 17 February 1969 / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KORHUMMEL

ROSS J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1956

**Year Discharged:** 1959

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ross J. Korhummel honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ross Korhummel was the owner of Korey Sales and Service in Cheektowaga for over 40 years / Ross J. Korhummel passed away on 3 October 2025 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOSCIELNIAK**

**THOMAS**

**S.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Thomas S. Koscielniak honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Koscielniak was a lifetime member of VFW Pvt. Leonard Post #6251 and American Legion Post #1528 / Koscielniak was also a member of the Western New York Hosta Society / Thomas S. Koscielniak passed away on 22 May 2023 at the age of 75 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOSHOFFER

HENRY J.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Henry J. Koshofer honorably served in the United States Army / Henry Koshofer was deployed to Vietnam and earned a Purple Heart Medal from wounds received during combat actions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Henry Koshofer retired from the Colorgraphics Printing Company / Koshofer was a member of the local Teamsters Union / Henry J. Koshofer passed away on 11 February 2023 at the age of 73 years old

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOSINSKI**

**RALPH**

**M.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ralph M. Kosinski honorably served in the United States Navy / Ralph Kosinski flew missions with a VP-93 crew

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Ralph Kosinski attended Purdue University and became a Chemical Engineer, working for DuPont until his retirement / Ralph M. Kosinski passed away on 15 February 2025 at the age of 76 years old

VP-93 was a squadron of fixed wing Patrol Seaplanes



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOSIS

ANTHONY D.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Anthony D. Kosis honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Anthony D. Kosis passed away on 12 November 2022



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOSMOSKI, JR.**

**STANLEY**

**A.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Stanley A. "Jack Welles" Kosmoski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Stanley A. "Jack Welles" Kosmoski, Jr. passed away on 16 January 2023

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOSTEK**  
**EDWARD**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1958

**Year Discharged:** 1960

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Edward Kostek honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Edward Kostek was stationed in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOTANSKY**

**WILLIAM A.**

**Hometown:** AKRON

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

William A. Kotansky honorably served in the United States Armed Forces

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William A. Kotansky passed away on 9 September 2025 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOWAL**

**FRANK**

**F.**

**Hometown:** **BUFFALO**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Frank F. Kowal honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Kowal was an active member of Unity Church, Buffalo / Frank F. Kowal passed away on 15 October 2025 at the age of 88 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOWAL**

**ROBERT S.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Robert S. Kowal honorably served in the United States Army / SP-4 Robert Kowal was deployed to Vietnam as a Forward Artillery Observer

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kowal graduated from Frontier Central High School in 1962 / in 1964, Kowal graduated from Bryant and Stratton Business Institute with an Associates Degree / Robert Kowal was drafted into the United States Army in 1968 / After his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Kowal graduated with a Bachelor's of Business Administration Degree in 1981 from Empire State College / Kowal served as the General Manager of the Star, Skyway and Park Drive-ins and Regional Manager of the Blatt Brothers theater chain based out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania / During the 1970's, Robert Kowal owned "Bobby's", a diner in Downtown Buffalo, New York / In 1981, Kowal and his wife purchased the Aurora Theatre in East Aurora and operated the theatre until 2003, working as a Business Consultant to Aurora Ventures / Robert Kowal served several years on the Executive Board of Directors of the National Association of Theater Owners / Robert S. Kowal passed away on 18 March 2023 at the age of 79 years old and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York

The primary duties of the Forward Artillery Observer was to direct the fire of an artillery unit from a forward position / Observes shell bursts and adjusts fire by forward observation or computation methods; consults with commanders of supported unit in determination of appropriate artillery targets, normal barrage, and zones of defense; trains personnel in procedures of artillery operation; organizes observation posts; sets up and maintains communication systems



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOWALCZEWSKI**

**LEONARD F.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "D", 7TH BATTALION, SCH BRIGADE  
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/DEVICE 1960

MARKSMANSHIP MEDAL: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Leonard Francis Kowalczewski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam as a Radio Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Prior to his induction into the U.S. Army on 8 December 1967, Leonard F. Kowalczewski attended a 2 Year College majoring in Civil Engineering / Leonard Kowalczewski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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

The 4th Infantry Division is a division of the United States Army based at Fort Carson, Colorado / The division was



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOWALCZYK  
EDWARD**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOWALCZYK

JOHN

V.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John V. "Johnny K" Kowalczyk honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Kowalczyk was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Baker Council #2243 / John V. "Johnny K" Kowalczyk passed away on 6 April 2025 at the age of 90 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOWALSKI**

**NORMAN J.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** (UNKNOWN)

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Norman J. Kowalski honorably served in the United States Military / Norman Kowalski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOWALSKI**  
**STANLEY**

**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:**

Stanley Kowalski honorably served in the United States Military / Stanley Kowalski was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOZA

ROBERT C.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 76 NASH STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** RM3

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-148)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY COMMENDATION RIBBON

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

NAVY COLD WAR MEDAL

HONORABLE SERVICE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Radioman Third-Class Robert C. Koza honorably served in the United States Navy / RM3 Koza handled telecommunications for the 2nd Fleet while serving on the Flag Ship, USS Newport News / Radioman Koza's ship patrolled the Atlantic Ocean, safeguarding the eastern seaboard of the United States and the Caribbean Sea area, including a stop at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba / Radioman Third-Class Koza served six years in the Navy / RM3 Koza also served as a Drummer in the ship's Band

Radioman Third-Class Robert C. Koza was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on 27 August 1974

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Station Norfolk (Norfolk, Virginia) - Naval Station Norfolk is the headquarters and home port of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet / In April 1917, shortly after the United States entered World War I, a bill was passed for the purchase of land at Norfolk, and money was set aside in the amount of \$1.6 million to develop the Naval Operating Base (NOB) and other facilities / When World War II began in Europe in 1939, new facilities were built, including new runways for aircraft and ramps to be used by seaplanes during the war / About 400 acres was acquired and, by 1943, the air station had become a central airfield for operations / On 1 January 1953, the name of the naval base was officially changed to Naval Station Norfolk (NS Norfolk), after being known as the NOB / In 1968, the Naval Air Station was given a major role in John F. Kennedy's vision of putting a man on the moon / The air station became Recovery Control Center Atlantic, which provided command, control, and communications for the ships and aircraft that participated in the recovery operations of Apollo 7 / Naval Station Norfolk is home port of four carrier strike groups and their assigned ships



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

## *Miscellaneous:*

Robert C. Koza graduated from Canisius High School prior to entering the United States Navy / After receiving his Honorable Discharge, Koza attended Bryant and Stratton College / Koza worked at Westinghouse as an Armature Winder until moving to TW Truck Equippers before obtaining employment in 1989 at Blue Cross & Blue Shield as a Control Clerk, where he worked until retirement / Robert Koza served as an Assistant Chaplain at Veterans Hospital, Buffalo as a Communion Minister and also served as Assistant Chaplain for the Navy League (A.O.S. Bryant & Stratton) / Koza also received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Buffalo and the California Coast University (combination degree) / Robert Koza has been a member of St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo for more than 40 years serving as a Choir member, Lector and Boy Scout Leader for Troop 107, earning the Vigil Honor, Wood Badge and the St. George Medal / Robert Koza was the American Legion Scouter of the year in 2011 and the Square Knot Award Winner in 2016 / Koza was awarded the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award in 2017 / Robert Koza has been a member of American Legion Matthew Glab Post 1477 in Lackawanna for over 40 years, serving the post as Vice Commander and Boys State Chairman / Bob Koza also is a member of AMVETS Post 8113 where he serves as Chaplain

Radiomen were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / Radiomen were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas

The USS Newport News (CA-148) was a Des Moines-class heavy cruiser commissioned on 29 January 1949 and launched on 6 March 1948 by Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Virginia/ The Newport News was the first fully air-conditioned surface ship in the United States Navy and the last of her age, as well as the last all-gun heavy cruiser in commission in US naval history / In addition to annual deployments to the Mediterranean from 1950 to 1961 for duty with the Sixth Fleet, she participated in major fleet exercises and midshipman training cruises in the Caribbean and Western Atlantic / Operations from 1963 through 1967 consisted primarily of NATO exercises in the North Atlantic, gunnery and amphibious exercises off the Eastern seaboard and Caribbean, and midshipman cruises / The USS Newport News was decommissioned on 27 June 1975 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 31 July 1978 / She spent her twilight years as a member of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard's "Mothball Fleet" and was sold for scrap in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 25 February 1993

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal is awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / As the NDSM has been awarded to all military personnel during four wartime periods, it has millions of recipients and is probably the most widely awarded medal in the history of the United States military, with the possible exception of World War II Victory Medal

The Navy Commendation Ribbon may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy (or Marine Corps, including foreign military personnel), distinguishes himself/herself by heroic or



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

meritorious achievement or service / To merit this award, the acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner above that normally expected and sufficient to distinguish the individual above those performing similar services

The Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (NSSDR) is presented to any member of the United States Navy after they complete a deployment at sea / A standard deployment is considered 90 consecutive days or two periods of at least 80 days within a 12 month period

The Navy Cold War Medal recognizes all service members and federal employees who faithfully served in the U.S. military during the Cold War era / That era is the end of World War II, 2 September 1945, to the collapse of the Soviet Union, 26 December 1991



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOZAK**  
**DAVID**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Colonel David Kozak honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam as a fighter pilot

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOZAK**  
**HENRY**

**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:**

Henry Kozak honorably served in the United States Military / Henry Kozak was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOZIOL

ALFRED J.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Alfred Koziol honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Alfred Koziol was retired from the Department of Defense where he was employed as a Quality Assurance Specialist / Alfred J. "Big Al" Koziol passed away on 26 July 2022 and is interred in the Western New York National Veterans Cemetery, Corfu, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOZLOWSKI JR.

JOHN R.

**Hometown:** LANCASTER

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1966

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PARACHUTIST BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-14 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (LIGHT MACHINE GUN (LMG))

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (M-1 RIFLE)

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: BROWNING AUTOMATIC RIFLE (BAR)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class John R. Kozlowski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / PFC John Kozlowski was assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman and was deployed to an Infantry Unit at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Fort Campbell is a United States Army installation located astride the Kentucky-Tennessee border / Opened in 1942, the base is named in honor of Union Army Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, the last Whig Governor of Tennessee / From that time until the end of World War II, Camp Campbell was the training ground for the 12th, 14th and 20th Armored divisions, Headquarters IV Armored Corps and the 26th Infantry Division / From 1950 to 1962, the post operated an Airborne Course which trained nearly 30,000 soldiers as paratroopers / The 1st Brigade was sent for duty in Vietnam in July 1965 / With the escalation of hostilities in Southeast Asia, the rest of the division was sent to Vietnam / Also in response to the military buildup, the 6th Infantry Division was reactivated at Fort Campbell on 24 November 1966, and inactivated 25 July 1968 / The Sabalauski Air Assault School, named after Command Sergeant Major Walter James Sabalauski is located on Fort Campbell / Courses taught include Air Assault, Pathfinder, Pre-Ranger, Jumpmaster Refresher, and Rappel Master / The school is also home to the Division's Parachute Demonstration Team

**Miscellaneous:**

John Kozlowski, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 26 October 1966 / John R. Kozlowski, Jr.



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

passed away on 20 September 2021

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOZMA, SR.

RONALD T.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**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:**

Ronald T. Kozma, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / Ronald Kozma was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald T. Kozma, Sr. passed away on 6 November 2020 at the age of 73 years old and his remains were cremated

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KOZUB

EDWARD M.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 85 MARTIN ROAD

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND ARMORED DIVISION, 15TH CAVALRY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant First Class Edward M. "Ed" Kozub honorably served in the United States Army / SFC Edward Kozub was deployed to 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:**

Edward Kozub attended Lackawanna High School / Edward M. "Ed" Kozub passed away on 8 February 2005 at the age of 62 years old and is interred at Bath National Cemetery, Bath, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAFT**

**DONALD M.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 4TH BATTALION, 3RD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant (E-5) Donald M. Kraft honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donald Kraft served as a Food Service Specialist while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas

Donald Kraft was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 12 January 1968

**Base Assignments:**

Fort. Hood (Killeen, Texas) - Fort Hood, opened in August 1942, 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

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Kraft was a life member of the Vigilant Fire Company and a member of American Legion #735 / Donald M. "Krafty" Kraft passed away on 17 September 2021 at the age of 75 years old

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

Artillery is a class of heavy military ranged weapons that launch munitions far beyond the range and power of



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

infantry firearms / As technology improved, lighter, more mobile field artillery cannons developed for battlefield use / Modern self-propelled artillery vehicles are highly mobile weapons of great versatility generally providing the largest share of an army's total firepower

The 1st Armored Division, nicknamed "Old Ironsides", is a combined arms division of the United States Army / The division is part of III Armored Corps and operates out of Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas / It was the first armored division of the United States Army to see battle in World War II / Since World War II, the division has been involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Persian Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and several other operations / The division has also received numerous awards and recognition

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAJCKER**  
**FRANK J.**

**Hometown:** EDEN

**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:**

Frank J. Krajcer honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Krajcer was a graduate of the University of Buffalo, earning an MBA in Business Administration / Krajcer worked for National Fuel, retiring as a supervisor and the head of the land department / Frank Krajcer was a lifetime member of the Hamburg Knights of Columbus and a former president of the International Right of Way Association / Frank J. Krajcer passed away on 23 July 2025 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at SS Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAJEWSKI**

**FRANCIS E.**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**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:**

Francis E. "Skip" Krajewski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Francis Krajewski retired from the Lancaster Branch of the United States Postal Service / Francis E. "Skip" Krajewski passed away on 2 January 2026 at the age of 78 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAKOWIAK**

**RICHARD F.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard F. Krakowiak honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Krakowiak retired from the Ford Motor Company after 35 years of service / Krakowiak was a Meals On Wheels volunteer and volunteered at his church / Richard F. Krakowiak passed away on 30 January 2025 at the age of 84 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAMER**

**EARL**

**E.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:** 1943

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Earl E. Kramer honorably served in the United States Army / Earl Kramer enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and was assigned to the European Theater of Operations / Kramer served as a Machine Gunner with the 2nd Armored Division and landed in Normandy on D-Day +9 / Kramer served in a light tank during the Battle of the Bulge, and went on to serve in several campaigns across France, Belgium, Holland and Germany / He was wounded in April 1945 while on a recon mission in Germany

At the end of World War II, Kramer was Honorably Discharged from Army with the rank of First Sergeant / In 1949, Kramer received a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and served 35 years, retiring with the rank of Colonel

Earl E. Kramer served in World War II and also served during the Korean War Era and the Vietnam War Era

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Earl E Kramer passed away on 30 September 2017



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAMER**

**ROBERT**

**W.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CW3

**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:**

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert W. Kramer honorably served in the United States Army / CW3 Edmund Kubik was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KRATHAUS JR  
CHARLES J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** ADJ2

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1972

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Aviation Machinist's Mate Petty Officer Second-Class Charles J. Krathaus, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / ADJ2 Krathaus was a Jet Engine Mechanic

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Aviation Machinist's Mates (abbreviated as AD) are United States Navy aircraft engine mechanics that inspect, adjust, test, repair, and overhaul aircraft engines and propellers / More specifically, ADs install, maintain, and service various aircraft engine types as well as various accessories, gear boxes, related fuel systems, and lubrication systems; determine reasons for engine degradation using various test equipment; perform propeller repairs; handle and service aircraft ashore or aboard ship; and can also serve as aircrewman in various types of aircraft



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KRATHAUS, SR.

THOMAS J.

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Thomas J. Krathaus, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army National Guard

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Krathaus was lifetime member of the 74th & 174th Veteran's Association and the Buddy Knaus Post #14 / Thomas J. Krathaus, Sr. passed way on 1 February 2026

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAUS**

**PAUL**

**E.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1963

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL.

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Paul E. Kraus honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Paul Kraus was assigned as a Cook

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Paul Kraus was a volunteer fire fighter for 51 years with the Big Tree Fire Department / Paul E. Kraus passed away on 24 March 2024 at the age of 82 years old

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAUSE**

**ERHARD**

**V.**

**Hometown:** DERBY

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Erhard V. "Art" Krause honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Erhard Krause worked for more than 50 years for the former GHI, now Emblem Health, where he started in the mailroom and retired as an Executive Vice President / Erhard V. "Art" Krause passed away on 27 December 2025 at the age of 84 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRAWCZYK**

**PETER S.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Peter S. Krawczyk honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter S. Krawczyk passed away on 14 January 2026

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KREMER**

**EDWARD**

**H.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Edward H. Kremer honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward H. Kremer passed away on 27 November 2023 at the age of 84 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:** **KRESCONKO**  
**RONALD**

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Ronald J. "Tiny" Kresconko honorably served in the United States Army / Ronald Kresconko was deployed to Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in combat and was also awarded two Purple Heart Medals for wounds suffered on the battlefield

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ronald J. "Tiny" Kresconko passed away on 8 January 2008

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 / An oak leaf cluster is a ribbon device to denote preceding decorations and awards consisting of a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KREUZER**

**JOSEPH**

**A.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** E-6

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

107TH COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff-Sergeant (E-6) Joseph Arthur Kreuzer honorably served in the United States Air Force as an Administrative Specialist and was activated when North Korea captured the USS Pueblo / SSgt Kreuzer's unit was sent to South Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph A. Kreuzer was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2940

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRIEGER**

**FRANK**

**A.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 21 BARTHEL STREET

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

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

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Frank Anthony Krieger honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Frank Krieger was deployed to Vietnam on 14 January 1969 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / PFC Frank Krieger was Killed In Action on 21 March 1969 from an explosive device while on a combat mission in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam / PFC Frank Krieger was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone

During Operation TOAN THANG on March 21 in Hua Nghia Province, a patrol was in the vicinity of the hamlet of Xon Ba Lo on the south bank of the Song Vam Co river when a booby trapped mine was tripped, causing an explosion / Four soldiers were wounded by shrapnel and evacuated for treatment, one of the casualties was PFC Frank Krieger who died shortly after arriving at the 3d Field Hospital

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Krieger attended East High School and was drafted in July 1968 / Frank Anthony Krieger was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

Frank Anthony Krieger is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

VVM Wall, Panel 29w, Line 101

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

Name: **KROLL**

**DAVID L.**

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:

David L. Kroll honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Kroll retired in 2004 as a Fraud Investigator for the County of Erie / Kroll was a longtime member of the Orchard Park Jaycees and a member of the Royal Order of the East Aurora Moose Lodge #370 / David Kroll was a past member of American Legion Post #567 and a current member of American Legion Post #362 / David L. Kroll passed away on 21 October 2025 at the age of 82 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KRONEISS

DAVID C.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1971

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

1 OVERSEAS BAR

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER ( M-16)

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

David Charles Kroneiss honorably served in the United States Army / David Kroneiss served for 2 years, 11 months and 28 days active service, with 6 months 28 days in Vietnam as a Medical Lab Specialist

David Kroneiss was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 1 February 1974

**Base Assignments:**

Meade

**Miscellaneous:**

Born in Buffalo, David Kroneiss also lived in Jacksonville, Florida / Following his Honorable Discharge from the military, David Kroneiss worked at the Roswell Park Cancer Treatment Center in Buffalo, New York / David Charles Kroneiss passed away on 24 October 2024 at the age of 73 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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRONTHALER**

**PAUL J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 139 ALLENDALE ROAD

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 8TH AIR CALVARY, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First Class Paul John Kronthaler honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Paul Kronthaler was deployed to Vietnam on 31 March 1969 as an Infantry Direct Fire Crewman / PFC Paul Kronthaler was Killed In Action on 6 May 1969 from bullet wounds sustained from enemy gunfire at Firebase Carolyn, Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam

In the early morning hours of May 6, 1969, Camp Carolyn, a remote U.S. artillery base near the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, was attacked by an estimated 300 North Vietnamese Army regulars who charged out of the bamboo forest surrounding the camp in a desperate attempt to overrun the position / The NVA broke through the barbed wire defenses at two points and occupied and held six of the perimeter bunkers and one of the gun positions for nearly two hours / The assault was preceded by a heavy barrage of rocket and mortar fire / After penetrating the perimeter, the enemy ran at the American bunkers, hurling grenades and satchel charges and firing AK-47's / The force of the attack drove out the U.S. soldiers, and the dugouts were immediately occupied by the NVA / The charge was stopped when the Americans shot holes into the fuel drums near the bunkers and ignited flowing rivers of gas to create a flaming barrier, which effectively blocked further enemy penetration / From that point, the Americans counterattacked with all available personnel, the officers involved being killed at the head of their troops / Artillerymen, supply and signal personnel, and engineers fought and died as emergency infantry reserves / Their counterattacks were hurled against both enemy penetrations, but the most violent fighting occurred on the northern side of Carolyn, where a seesaw battle



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

aged for possession of the 155mm howitzer position / During the course of the battle, this weapon exchanged hands 3 times in hand-to-hand fighting decided at close range with rifles and E-tools (entrenching tools, or shovels) / Another light howitzer section was caught in an enemy crossfire between a heavy machine gun and rifles until the U.S. artillerymen managed to turn their lowered muzzle and pump "Beehive" flechettes (anti-personnel weapon) into the enemy / All enemy automatic weapon fire against the howitzer was instantly silenced / As Cavalry counterattacks continued, the Americans reestablished the perimeter, and the enemy force began withdrawing, breaking contact at 6:00 AM / The action against Carolyn resulted in 10 U.S. killed, 62 wounded / Enemy losses were 101 killed and 29 captured / The lost Americans included Private First-Class Paul John Kronthaler

PFC Paul Kronthaler was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone

## *Base Assignments:*

## *Miscellaneous:*

Paul Kronthaler was a 1964 graduate of West Seneca Central School and had received his Bachelor's Degree from Brockport State College in June 1968, prior to joining the Army in October 1968 / Paul John Kronthaler was 22 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

Paul John Kronthaler is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 12

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

The 8th Infantry Regiment was constituted as an infantry regiment on 5 July 1838 in the Regular Army / The 8th Infantry is also known as the "Fighting Eagles", is an infantry regiment in the United States Army / The 8th Infantry participated in the Mexican War, American Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Moro Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, and Iraq Campaign / During Operation Wayne Grey at Landing Zone Brace 3 March 1969 in Vietnam, the 3rd Battalion Company "A" had at least 21 fatalities

The 1st Cavalry Division ("First Team") is a combined arms division and is one of the most decorated combat divisions of the United States Army, as well as the other four branches of the U.S. military / Based at Fort Hood, Texas, the 1st Cavalry was formed in 1921 and served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the Iraq War, in the War in Afghanistan and in Operation Freedom's Sentinel / In the Vietnam War, the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other army division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRUGER**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era**
- Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** CS3

**Year Entered:** 1960

**Year Discharged:** 1964

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Commissaryman Third-Class William Kruger honorably served in the United States Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Commissarymen prepared meals for enlisted sailors in galleys on the ship and shore bases in the general mess / They purchased food from approved sources, stored food stuffs and distributed to the galleys for preparation and kept accountability records / They purchased food from approved sources, stored food stuffs and distributed to the galleys for preparation and kept accountability records / Commissaryman was established as a rating in the U.S. Navy in 1948, and was changed to Mess Management Specialist in 1974, a title that lasted for thirty years until it became Culinary Specialist in 2004



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRUK**

**EDWARD J.**

Hometown: KENMORE

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Edward J. Kruk honorably served in the Air National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward J. Kruk passed away on 28 November 2024 at the age of 79 years old

The Air National Guard (ANG), also known as the Air Guard, is a federal military reserve force of the United States Air Force, as well as the air militia of each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands / It, along with the Army National Guard component of each state, district, commonwealth or territory, makes up the National Guard of each region as applicable / When Air National Guard units are used under the jurisdiction of the state governor, they are fulfilling their militia role / When federalized by order of the President of the United States, ANG units become an active part of the U.S. Air Force / They are jointly administered by the states and the National Guard Bureau, a joint bureau of the Army and Air Force that oversees the U.S. National Guard



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KRUSCHKE

**Hometown:** AKRON

DALE E.

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** LCDR

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AMERICAN SPIRIT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Lieutenant Commander Dale E. Kruschke honorably served in the United States Navy / LCDR Dale Kruschke served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years until his retirement in 1989

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Dale Kruschke served as Constable for the Town of Newstead for 10 years / Kruschke was a lifetime member of the Newstead Fire Company and served with the Clarence/Newstead Fire Police Association / Dale Kruschke also volunteered as the Fire Police Safety Coordinator for the Ride for Roswell / Dale Kruschke was a member of the Akron/Newstead Senior Center, the Newstead Historical Society, the Wood and Brook Sportsman's Club and volunteered at the Akron/Newstead Food Pantry / Dale E. Kruschke passed away on 27 November 2025 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The American Spirit Honor Medal is a medallion provided by the Citizens Committee for the Army, Navy and Air Force, Inc. / It has been accepted for use in basic training or one station unit training at training divisions and centers within the continental United States as an award for the display of outstanding qualities of leadership best expressing the American spirit: honor, initiative, loyalty, and high example to comrades in arms; and as a means of promoting closer relationship between the Armed Forces and the civil communities in which the training divisions and centers are located



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRUZICKI**  
**JAMES**

**Hometown:**

**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:**

James Kruzicki honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Kruzicki passed away on 21 February 2026 at the age of 87 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRYSZAK**

**THEODORE E.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 814 WILLIAM STREET

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** COL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

7TH AIR FORCE, 14TH AIR COMMANDO WING, 4TH AIR COMMANDO SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

AIR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

UNITED STATES AVIATOR BADGE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Colonel Theodore Eugene Kryszak honorably served in the United States Air Force / Colonel Theodore Kryszak was deployed to Thailand on 5 November 1965 as a Pilot / COL Theodore Kryszak was Killed In Action on 3 June 1966 when his aircraft was downed by enemy ground fire in Laos

CAPT Theodore E. Kryszak was the pilot of an AC-47 gunship assigned to the 4th Air Commando Squadron at Ubon Airfield, Thailand / The aircraft, dubbed "Puff the Magic Dragon" had evolved from earlier versions of the Douglas C-47 / Puff introduced a new principle to air attack in Vietnam / Troubled by difficulties in conducting nighttime defense, Capt. Ronald Terry of the U.S. Air Force Aeronautical Systems Division remembered reading about flying missionaries in Latin America who lowered baskets of supplies on a rope from a tightly circling airplane / Throughout the series of pylon turns, the basket remained suspended over a selected point on the ground / Tests proved it could, and could be extremely successful / Puff's "flare kicker" illuminated the target, then the pilot used a mark on the window to his left as a gun sight and circled slowly as three multi-barrel 7.62mm machine guns fired 18,000 rounds per minute from the door and two windows in the port side of the passenger compartment / The aircraft was called "Puff" after a popular song of the day, and because it resembled a dragon overhead with flames billowing from its guns / Men on the ground welcomed the presence of Puff and the later Spooky version, which was essentially the same as the Puff, because of its ability to concentrate a heavy dose of defensive fire in a surgically determined area / CAPT Kryszak's Puff was assigned a mission which took it over Khammouane Province, Laos on 3 June 1966 / His crew that day included 1LT Russell



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

D. Martin, COL Harding E. Smith, TSGT Harold E. Mullins, TSGT Luther L. Rose, and SSGT Ervin Warren / On such a crew, it was common for the officers to be the flight crew, while the sergeants acted as aerial gunners / On this crew, Mullins was the flight engineer / At a point about 10 miles east of Ban Pha Philang near the borders of Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces, CAPT Kryszak's aircraft was shot down / The Puff was seen to crash by another aircraft in the area / No parachutes were seen and no emergency radio beeper signals were heard, yet at least one of the men onboard the aircraft was known to have survived (COL Harding E. Smith, according to a list compiled by the National League of Families of POW/MIA in Southeast Asia survived this incident) / According to the Air Force, subsequent searches for the aircraft revealed the wreckage of the aircraft, but the crew could not be located / The entire crew of six men were missing and declared dead / The remains of CAPT Kryszak were recovered on 20 June 1995 and identified on 28 April 2003

Theodore Eugene Kryszak was posthumously promoted to Colonel

Colonel Theodore Kryszak was a 13 year veteran of the United States Air Force

### *Base Assignments:*

Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand - Ubon Royal Thai AFB (RTAF) was a facility located near the city of Ubon Ratchathani, in Ubon Ratchathani Province, 303 miles northeast of Bangkok / Ubon RTAFB was established in the 1950s / Political considerations with regards to communist forces engaging in a civil war inside Laos and fears of the civil war spreading into Thailand led the Thai government to allow the United States to covertly use five Thai bases beginning in 1961 for the air defense of Thailand and to fly reconnaissance flights over Laos / Under Thailand's "gentleman's agreement" with the United States, RTAF base used by the USAF were commanded by Thai officers / Thai air police controlled access to the bases, along with USAF Security Police, who assisted them in base defense using sentry dogs, observation towers, and machine gun bunkers / The USAF forces at Ubon were under the command of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / From 1965 to 1974, the base was a front-line facility of the USAF during the Vietnam War / On 16 September 1974 the USAF forces at Ubon were inactivated and the facility turned over to the Thai Government

### *Miscellaneous:*

Theodore Kryszak was a graduate of St. Stanislaus and Lake Shore Central School / Theodore Eugene Kryszak was 33 years old at the time of his passing and his remains have been laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

Theodore Eugene Kryszak is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 08e, Line 3

The Seventh Air Force (Air Forces Korea) (7 AF) is a Numbered Air Force of the United States Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) / It is headquartered at Osan Air Base, South Korea / The command's mission is to plan and direct air component operations in the Republic of Korea and in the Northwest Pacific / Established on 19 October 1940 as the Hawaiian Air Force at Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, the 7 AF was a United States Army Air Forces combat unit in the Pacific Theater of World War II, providing air defense of the Hawaiian Islands and engaging in combat operations primarily in the Central Pacific AOR / It was assigned units engaging enemy forces in the Gilbert Islands; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Mariana Islands, and in the last major battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of Okinawa / On 28 March 1966, Seventh Air Force was designated a combat command at Tan Son Nhut



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Air Base, overseeing the operations of the ten primary USAF bases in the Republic of Vietnam / From April 1966 until 1973, the command assumed responsibility for most Air Force operations in Vietnam and shared responsibility with the Thirteenth Air Force for operations conducted from Thailand as 7/13 Air Force / In June 1966, the first US air attacks near Hanoi and Haiphong occurred when 7AF planes bombed nearby oil installations / The following month, US aircraft struck North Vietnamese forces inside the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) / The Siege of Khe Sanh ("Operation Niagara") involved significant efforts by Seventh Air Force / More than 24,000 tactical and 2700 Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strikes dropped 110,000 tons of ordnance in attacks that averaged over 300 sorties per day / At night, Douglas AC-47 Spooky gunships kept up fire against enemy troops / 7th AF oversaw the ongoing US air campaigns in Cambodia and Laos until the prohibition on offensive operations came into effect on 14 August 1973

The 14th Air Commando Wing was activated at Nha Trang on 8 March 1966 and was the host unit at the base until 15 October 1969 when it moved to Phan Rang Air Base / The airfield was managed by the 14th Combat Support Group / On its establishment the 14th Wing assumed control of all USAF squadrons at Nha Trang and the 1st Air Commando Squadron (before it moved to Pleiku Air Base) and it later assumed control of the 20th Helicopter Squadron / In January 1967 Flight C from the 4th Air Commando Squadron equipped with AC-47 Spooky gunships began operating from the base / In late December 1968, the 71st Special Operations Squadron equipped with AC-119G Shadow gunships arrived from Lockbourne Air Force Base and began operations from the base / On 1 June 1969 the 17th Special Operations Squadron equipped with AC-119G gunships was activated at Nha Trang and it replaced the 71st Special Operations Squadron which returned to Bakalar Air Force Base for inactivation / In mid-1969, as part of the process of Vietnamization, USAF units at Nha Trang began to relocate or inactivate and by October 1969 all USAF units had left the base and only 800 USAF personnel remained there to support operations until the handover of the base to the RVNAF in 1970

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

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

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

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

A United States Aviator Badge refers to three types of aviation badges issued by the United States Armed Forces,



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KRYWALSKI**

**RICHARD C.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** E-5

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1968

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/1 STAR

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/1 DEVICE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE RIBBON

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Richard Charles Krywalski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Richard Krywalski was assigned as a Rifleman in Vietnam / Sergeant Krywalski was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against enemy forces and was also awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat operations

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Barracks, Yorktown, Virginia - Naval Weapons Station Yorktown and Cheatham Annex provide responsive, quality support for explosive ordnance storage, maintenance, logistics, research and development, and support services; expeditionary logistics training and operations; warfare training for Sailors, Marines, and other Services; and to serve as a premier recreation destination for service members and dependents / The installation was first established in 1918, as the Naval Mine Depot

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Krywalski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 / Richard Charles Krywalski passed away on 21 August 2011

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

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KRZEMINSKI

JOSEPH A.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1967

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 4TH ESTB UNITED STATES ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS (USATC)  
5TH UNITED STATES ARMY

**Medals / Citations:**

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: SHARPSHOOTER (RIFLE)

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Joseph Andrew Krzeminski honorably served in the United States Army as a Construction Machine Operator

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Krzeminski was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 / Joseph Andrew Krzeminski passed away on 27 March 2016

In United States Army units, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is a company -sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within one company / Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Fifth Army was redesignated on 1 January 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Fifth United States Army / The United States Army Transportation Corps (USATC) is responsible for the movement of personnel and material by truck, rail, air, and sea

The United States Fifth Army was one of the principal formations of the U.S. Army in the Mediterranean during World War II / It was officially activated on 5 January 1943 at Oujda, French Morocco and made responsible for the defense of Algeria and Morocco / The Fifth Army started life as the Army units that participated in Operation TORCH, the invasion of North Africa / It was the first American field army ever to be activated outside of the United States



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KRZYWOWIAZA

FRANK J.

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Frank J. Krzywowiaza honorably served in the United States Navy / Krzywowiaza retired from the Navy after 32 years of service

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank J. Krzywowiaza passed away on 2 November 2024 at the age of 70 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUBANT**  
**MARTIN** **A.**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**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:**

Martin Anthony "Marty" Kubant honorably served in the United States Air Force

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Martin Anthony "Marty" Kubant passed away on 25 January 2024 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:** KUBICKI, SR.

DONALD J.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**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:**

Sergeant Donald J. Kubicki, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donald Kubicki was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUBIK**

**EDMUND J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**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:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Edmund J. Kubik honorably served in the United States Army / SP4 Edmund Kubik was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUEHLEWIND**

**MICHAEL G.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND BATTALION 77TH ARTILLERY

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Michael G. Kuehlewind honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Michael G. Kuehlewind passed away on 1 July 2023

The 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery was first constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as Troops C and D, 19th Cavalry and organized on 11 June 1917 at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont / During World War II, the 77th participated in participated in 10 campaigns, including Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, North Apennines, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, and Po Valley / The 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery arrived in Vietnam on 9 October 1966, and was initially based at Dau Tieng as the direct support battalion for the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division / Reassigned to the 25th Infantry Division on 1 August 1967, it moved to Cu Chi in 1969 / The 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery participated in eleven Vietnam campaigns receiving a Presidential Unit Citation for the battle of Soui Tre and three awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm / The battalion departed Vietnam on 7 December 1970.



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUGLER**

**ROBERT A.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert A. Kugler honorably served in the United States Navy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kugler was retired from Bethlehem Steel / Robert Kugler was a member of American Legion Post #735 / Robert A. Kugler passed away on 7 November 2025 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KULIK**

**DANIEL**

**R.**

**Hometown:** ORCHARD PARK

**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:**

Daniel R. Kulik honorably served in the United States Armed Forces

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Daniel R. Kulik passed away on 10 November 2025 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Nativity of Our Lord Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KULLERKUPP**  
**HANS**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SMSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Senior Master Sergeant Hans Kullerkupp honorably served in the United States Air Force Reserve / SMSGT Hans Kullerkupp served for 24 years in the Air Force Reserve, as Site Development Superintendent for the Civil Engineering Squadron / SMSGT Kullerkupp retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1990

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Hans Kullerkupp attended Millard Fillmore College's School of Architecture and Design and was employed for 10 years by Pfohl, Roberts and Biggie, where he worked on the project to raise the roof of Memorial Auditorium / Hans Kullerkupp joined Cannon Design in 1979 as Senior Principal, leading the successful school design division and working on school projects throughout Western New York / Kullerkupp was part of the design team for the former Fleet Bank office tower in downtown Buffalo and the first children's hospital in Tel Aviv, Israel / Hans Kullerkupp was named a Senior Vice President in 1997 / Kullerkupp retired in April 2013 / Hans Kullerkupp passed away on 15 September 2014 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at Saint Stephens Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KULP, JR.

CHARLES A.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1956

**Year Discharged:** 1959

**Unit / Squadron:**

7TH FLEET PATROL SQUADRON RECONNAISSANCE

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone      Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Charles A. Kulp, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Charles Kulp was assigned to the 7th Fleet Patrol Squadron Reconnaissance, surveillance in the Western Pacific / Charles Kulp served 22 months foreign and sea service

Charles Kulp, Jr. was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on 3 August 1960 with reserve obligations ending 15 August 1962

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Kulp was the proprietor of Kulp Hardware store in South Buffalo, New York / Charles A. Kulp, Jr. passed away on 25 July 2025 at the age of 91 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:** **KUMM**

**ROBERT K.**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1970

**Year Discharged:** 1974

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS TRUCKEE (AO-147)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert K. Kumm honorably served in the United States Navy / Robert Kumm served aboard the USS Truckee, a fleet oiler

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Kumm graduated from LaSalle High School in 1969 / Robert Kumm was a supervisor at the Niagara Falls treatment facility for more than 20 years, retiring in 2007 / Robert K. Kumm passed away on 24 January 2013 at the age of 61 years old and is interred at Riverdale Cemetery, Lewiston, New York

USS Truckee (AO-147) was a Neosho-class fleet oiler of the United States Navy in service from 1955 to 1994 / The ship was named after the Truckee River in the U.S. states of California and Nevada / The fleet oiler was commissioned on 18 November 1955 / Assigned to the Atlantic Fleet, she served with Service Squadron 4 from January 1956 to 1980 / Truckee ended her operations as a fleet oiler with the United States Navy on 8 November 1979 / She finished the last of her 25 odd years while assigned to Service Squadron 4, NAVSURFLANT in Norfolk, Virginia / The USS Truckee was transferred to the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) on 1 May 1999 for lay up in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, James River, Fort Eustis, Virginia / On 6 August 2008, Truckee was removed from the NDRF after being sold to Bay Bridge Enterprises for scrapping



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KUPKOWSKI

EUGENE W.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 5 BAKER COURT

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:**

Eugene W. Kupkowski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of Eugene Kupkowski, SGT John Kupkowski, was Killed In Action on 28 February 1971 from small arms fire during combat action in Binh Dinh, South Vietnam / Another brother, Walter Kupkowski, Jr. also served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in Combat

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KUPKOWSKI

JOHN

W.

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 5 BAKER COURT

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1969

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 503RD INFANTRY, 173RD AIRBORNE (ABN) BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PARACHUTIST BADGE

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant John Walter Kupkowski honorably served in the United States Army / SGT John Kupkowski was deployed to Vietnam on 22 October 1970 as a Light Weapons Infantryman / SGT John Kupkowski was Killed In Action on 28 February 1971 from small arms fire during combat action in Binh Dinh, South Vietnam

Two of Sergeant John Kupkowski's brothers, Walter Kupkowski, Jr. and Eugene W. Kupkowski, served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Kupkowski was a driver for Hackett's Trucking Company at Bethlehem Steel Corp before being drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1969 / John Walter Kupkowski was 26 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

John Walter Kupkowski is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 04w, Line 11

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The 503rd Infantry Regiment, formerly the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (503rd PIR) and the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment (503rd AIR), is an airborne infantry regiment of the United States Army / The regiment served as an independent regiment in the Pacific War during World War II / Regimental elements have participated in campaigns in the Vietnam War, Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom / The regiment claims 15 Medal of Honor recipients: two from World War II, ten from Vietnam, and three from Afghanistan / The regiment's 1st and 2nd Battalions are active, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade

The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers"[1]) is an airborne infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) of the United States Army based in Vicenza, Italy. It is the United States European Command's conventional airborne strategic response force for Europe.[3]

Activated in 1915, the 173rd Infantry Brigade saw service in World War II but is best known for its actions during the Vietnam War / The brigade was the first major United States Army ground formation deployed in Vietnam, serving there from 1965 to 1971 and losing 1,533 soldiers / Noted for its roles in Operation Hump and Operation Junction City, the 173rd is best known for the Battle of Dak To, where it suffered heavy casualties in close combat with North Vietnamese forces / Brigade members received over 7,700 decorations, including more than 6,000 Purple Hearts / The brigade returned to the United States in 1972, where the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, were absorbed into the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery was reassigned to Division Artillery in the 101st / The remaining units of the 173rd were inactivated

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

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

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

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. The badge is awarded to



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUPKOWSKI JR**

**WALTER J.**

**Hometown:** LACKAWANNA

**Address:** 5 BAKER COURT

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Walter J. Kupkowski, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Walter Kupkowski was a Green Beret combat veteran who served two tours in Vietnam / Kupkowski was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat operations

Kupkowski served in the Navy for two years and then joined the Army, where he served in artillery and airborne units

The brother of Walter Kupkowski, SGT John Kupkowski, was Killed In Action on 28 February 1971 from small arms fire during combat action in Binh Dinh, South Vietnam / Another brother, Eugene W. Kupkowski also served in Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Walter Kupkowski was a graduate of Lackawanna High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Kupkowski worked in the Maintenance Department of Our Lady of Victory Homes for 29 years until his retirement / Kupkowski was a life member of the Col. J.B. Weber VFW #898, Matthew Glab American Legion Post #1477, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #77 / Walter J. Kupkowski, Jr. passed away from cancer on 19 September 2000 at the age of 58 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KURTOWICZ**

**JAMES D.**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**Address:** 27 PARK RIDGE AVENUE

*Vietnam Era*

*Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

SPECIAL FORCES, B 33, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant James David Kurtowicz honorably served in the United States Army / SSGT James Kurtowicz was deployed to Vietnam on 1 July 1968 as a Combat Engineer / SSGT Kurtowicz was a paratrooper and a member of the elite U S Army's Special Forces, serving his second tour in Vietnam / SSGT James Kurtowicz was Killed In Action on 10 June 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds during combat actions in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam

SSGT James Kurtowicz was posthumously awarded the Silver Star medal for gallantry displayed during military operations involving conflict with enemy forces

Kurtowicz was trained as a demolition expert and an intelligence specialist before he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam, June 1968 / He received his basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ., and received his airborne training at Ft. Benning, Ga., before attending Special Forces School in Ft Bragg, NC.

**Base Assignments:**

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life

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

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

### *Miscellaneous:*

James Kurtowicz graduated from Burgard Vocational High School, attended post graduate courses at Kensington High School and graduated from Paul Smith College, Paul Smiths N.Y. before joining the Army in 1966 / Kurtowicz was a past counselor and a chevalier of the DeMolay and was an Eagle Scout / James David Kurtowicz was 24 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Saint John Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

James David Kurtowicz is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. - Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 22w, Line 14

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

The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (5th SFG (A), 5th Group) is one of the most decorated active-duty United States Army Special Forces groups / The 5th was constituted on 15 April 1960 / The 5th SFG (A) saw extensive action in the Vietnam War and played a pivotal role in the early months of Operation Enduring Freedom / 5th Group is designed to deploy and execute nine doctrinal missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, counter-insurgency, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, information operations, counterproliferation of weapon of mass destruction, and security force assistance / The 5th SFG was first deployed as a battlefield advisory group for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) / In 1964, the Group hired Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian producers to make fatigues, "boonie" hats, and other items of Tigerstripe fabric / By February 1965, the war was in full swing and the Group was deployed as a mainstay



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

battle force using unconventional and conventional warfare / The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was unique in the Vietnam War for its heavy usage of watercraft, particularly Hurricane Aircat airboats / It launched a wide-ranging campaign against Viet Cong forces in the Mekong Delta in July 1967 / Conducted with the South Vietnamese Army, civilian irregulars, and the U.S. Navy and Air Force, the campaign was built around the use of some 400 watercraft, including 84 airboats, as well as helicopters, Navy warships, and civilian vessels / In April 1970, 5th SFG began reducing its number of personnel in Vietnam / Later in November and December, further reductions in personnel and extraction of companies ensued, ending in a complete withdrawal of the group by March 1971

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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

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



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KURTOWICZ**

**PETER L.**

**Hometown:**

**Address:** 27 PARK RIDGE AVENUE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Peter L. Kurtowicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Vietnam

The brother of Corporal Peter Kurtowicz, SSGT James Kurtowicz, was Killed In Action on 10 June 1969 from multiple fragmentation wounds during combat actions in Binh Long Province, South Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

Los Alamitos , California - Joint Forces Training Base - Los Alamitos is a joint base in Los Alamitos, California, United States / Formerly operated as a naval air station, the base contains the Los Alamitos Army Airfield and is sometimes called by that name / The base is also known as JFTB and covers 1,319 acres and supports 850 full-time employees and more than 6,000 National Guard and Reserve troops / In 1942, JFTB became a naval air base to train fighter pilots during World War II / In 1973, JFTB was transferred to the U.S. Army

**Miscellaneous:**



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KURZDORFER**

**JOHN**

**C.**

**Hometown:** CLARENCE

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** CAPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain John Charles Kurzdorfer honorably served in the United States Air Force / Captain Kurzdorfer was a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Charles Kurzdorfer passed away on 16 December 2024 at the age of 80 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUSIOR  
DANIEL**

**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:**

Daniel Kusior honorably served in the United States Military / Daniel Kusior was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUSIOWSKI**

**FRANK**

**C.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** SCPO

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Senior Chief Petty Officer Frank Charles Kusiowski honorably served in the United States Army / SCPO Frank Kusiowski retired from the U.S. Navy after 32 years of service

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Kusiowski retired from the Collins Correctional Facility as a Corrections Officer / Kusiowski was a lifetime member of Amvets, the Gowanda American Legion and the Gowanda Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) / Kusiowski was a 50 year member of the Collins Volunteer Fire Department and drove the school bus for Gowanda Central School / Kusiowski was also a member of the Fleet reserve, the Chief Petty Officer Club, the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, as well as the Gowanda Moose Club and the Slovenian Club / Frank Charles Kusiowski passed away on 27 December 2023 at the age of 85 years old



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KUSMIERZ

ALLAN J.

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**Address:**

- Vietnam Era
- Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1967

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST CAVALRY

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL  
INFANTRYMAN BADGE

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Allan J. "Lock 'n Load" Kusmierz honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Allan Kusmierz was assigned to the Infantry and deployed to Vietnam for 11 months with the 1st Air Cavalry, where he fought in the 1968 Tet Offensive as a M-60 Machine Gunner

Sergeant Allan Kusmierz joined the U.S. Army at the age of 19 years old and was Honorably Discharged on 8 January 1969

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Allan Kusmierz was a life-member and Past Commander of Hamburg American Legion Post #527 and a life-member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #1419 / Allan J. Kusmierz passed away on 8 July 2024 at the age of 76 years old from the effects of Agent Orange / Allan J. Kusmierz is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The M60, officially the Machine Gun, Caliber 7.62 mm, M60, is a family of American general-purpose machine guns firing 7.62x51mm NATO cartridges from a disintegrating belt of M13 links / There are several types of ammunition approved for use in the M60, including ball, tracer, and armor-piercing rounds / It was adopted in 1957 and issued to units beginning in 1959 / It has served with every branch of the U.S. military and still serves with the armed forces of other nations / Its manufacture and continued upgrade for military and commercial purchase continues into the 21st century



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KUSTRA, SR.**  
**FRANK**

**Hometown:** GRAND ISLAND

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Captain Frank Kustra, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Frank Kustra, Sr. passed away on 5 April 2024 at the age of 76 years old and is interred at Whitehaven Cemetery, Grand Island, New York



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KWAS**

Hometown:

Address:

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KWAS**

**DANIEL P.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

199 INFANTRY BRIGADE

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Daniel Paul Kwas honorably served in the United States Army / Daniel Kwas was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

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# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KWITOWSKI

CARL E.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment: VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Carl E. Kwitowski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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