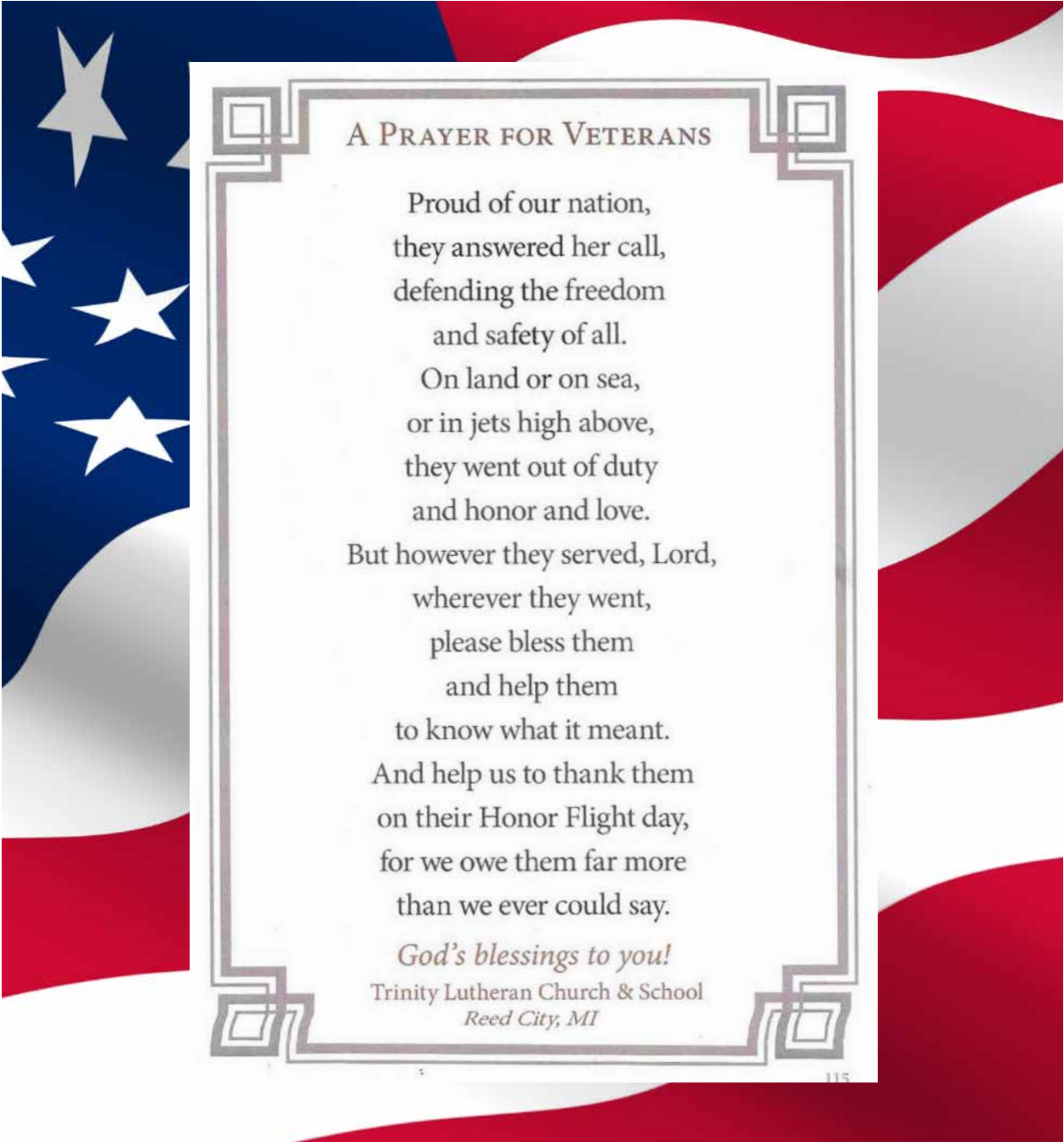


Mid-Michigan Honor Flight



Mission XXV – May 5-6, 2026



A PRAYER FOR VETERANS

Proud of our nation,
they answered her call,
defending the freedom
and safety of all.

On land or on sea,
or in jets high above,
they went out of duty
and honor and love.

But however they served, Lord,
wherever they went,
please bless them
and help them
to know what it meant.

And help us to thank them
on their Honor Flight day,
for we owe them far more
than we ever could say.

God's blessings to you!

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Reed City, MI



Thank you for accompanying us on Mission #25 and making it a wonderful experience! Please accept this book as a token of our appreciation. It was our privilege to share this day and many experiences with you. The photos that you submitted with your application appear in this book and your Veteran experiences have been placed into it to capture your place in our history.

"It is never too late to thank a Veteran"

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight Board of Directors:

Robert Green	Kathy Barnes	John Jury	Lori Thueme
Renee Haley	Allen Sutherby	CJ Monsivais	Kristi Medler
Brenda King-Gibson	Heather Green	Kenneth Rizzio	Gary Wendlowsky
Michael Wheaton	Mark Juday	Lynn Miller	Justina Hlavka
Jason Heilig	James Swoboda	Phil Muma	

Support Staff: Frank Keck, Doug Sherman, James Smither

Flight Support: Allen Sutherby, Ashley Hall, Amanda Helmer, Bethany Hamilton, CJ Monsivais, Luke Killingbeck, Rachel Killingbeck, Jacob Buse

Counselor: Lisa Grenon

Photographers: James Swoboda, Justina Hlavka

Design & printing of this book was done by Revolution Design, B & B Printing and Northwoods Office Express in Traverse City, MI. Thank you, Bill, Amy & Jeffery!

Background cover photo: Laura Rivera, Unsplash



*Official Hub of the
Honor Flight ® Network*

Acknowledgment

First and foremost, we remember, thank, and praise every Veteran that has ever served, sacrificed, and defended our Nation and our Freedoms! The Board of Directors of Mid-Michigan Honor Flight would like to take a moment and offer a Special "Thank You" to the volunteers, donors, and businesses that made Mission #25 a success. Our Hero Honorees, and their Guardians were treated to "The Trip of a Lifetime". This first-class event was made possible by the dedication and hard work of the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight Board of Directors and our Flight Support Staff.

A special thank you to everyone that has made Mid Michigan Honor Flight a success for all 25 of our Hero Honoring Missions! It is hard to believe that Tricia Donegan had this type of a vision in 2013 when she first contemplated the idea of creating our hub, but here we are 25 Missions later, with over 1,800 Veterans Honored and provided a Tour of Honor.

To everyone that accompanied on this special occasion, it was our privilege to spend the trip with you and are glad that you are now a part of the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight Family.

It was our Honor and Privilege to make sure that Jonathan Erickson received his POW Medal and his Purple Heart Medal for his time in captivity during the Korean War.

To our many Volunteers, MMHF gratefully acknowledges your time, dedication, and hard work, we could never complete a Mission without you. Our Special thanks to: Gerald R. Ford employees, the Meijer Family Foundation, 5 Star Screen Printing Plus, Coins with Pride, B & B Printing, Project Hero Hugs, the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Holes 4 Heavens Heroes, Meijer, Enbridge Energy, and all of our other generous Donors.

Our simple directive "What is the best choice for our Veterans" drives us to make every Mission better than the last. We are able to make each Mission come together because of the generous and loving commitment that everyone contributes to our Nation's Heroes.



The Tootsie Roll Tale

For too many Americans, November 11th signals “that 3-day weekend before Thanksgiving.” Others know it’s Veterans Day and feel it deeply. But for many people, Veterans Day is a vague and fuzzy concept, lacking a compelling memory; a story, a visual aid; something tactile to focus on. Those are the ones you want to hand a piece of candy to. A couple of weeks before Veterans Day buy a bag of those tiny Tootsie Rolls, the ones called *Midgees*. Put some in your pocket and begin handing them out, along with this story:

After World War II, the Korean peninsula was divided into the communist North and the democratic South. While South Korea was recovering and rebuilding, North Korea was arming to the teeth, receiving countless tons of

weapons, munitions and war supplies — and encouragement to use them — from Mao’s China and Stalin’s Soviet Union. In June of 1950, North Korea invaded the lightly-defended South with infantry, tanks and artillery, nearly rolling up the entire country. South Korea had no tanks, anti-tank weapons or artillery. Then a coalition of UN member nations, led by the US, intervened.

After weeks of bitter fighting, North Korean forces were pushed way back over the border at the 38th Parallel. For a brief and shining moment, it

appeared the invasion had been defeated — and the North’s Russian and Chinese sponsors had taken a slap in the face. Mao’s response shouldn’t have come as a surprise, but it did. He sent a million-man army against the allies.

A VETERANS DAY STORY

THE FROZEN CHOSIN

By November 26, 10,000 men of the First Marine Division, along with elements of two Army regimental combat teams, a detachment of British Royal Marine commandos and some South Korean policemen were completely surrounded by over ten divisions of Chinese troops in rugged mountains near the Chosin Reservoir. Chairman Mao himself had ordered the Marines annihilated, and Chinese General Song Shi-Lun gave it his best shot, throwing human waves of his 120,000 soldiers against the heavily outnumbered allied forces. A massive cold front blew in from Siberia, and with it, the coldest winter in recorded Korean history. For the encircled allies at the Chosin Reservoir, daytime temperatures averaged five degrees below zero, while nights plunged to minus 35 and lower.

Jeep batteries froze and split. C-rations ran dangerously low and the cans were frozen solid. Fuel could not be spared to thaw them. If truck engines stopped, their fuel lines froze. Automatic weapons wouldn’t cycle. Morphine syrettes had to be thawed in a medical corpsman’s mouth before they could be injected. Precious bottles of blood plasma were frozen and useless. Resupply could only come by air, and that was spotty and erratic because of the foul weather.

High Command virtually wrote them off, believing their situation was hope-

less. Washington braced for imminent news of slaughter and defeat. Retreat was hardly an option; not through that wall of Chinese troops. If the Marines defended, they would be wiped out. So they formed a 12-mile long column — and attacked.

There were 78 miles of narrow, crumbling, steeply-angled road — and 100,000 Chinese soldiers — between the Marines and the sea at Hungnam. Both sides fought savagely for every inch of it. The march out became one monstrous, moving battle.

The Chinese used the ravines between ridges, protected from rifle fire, to marshal their forces between attacks. The Marines’ 60-millimeter mortars,

capable of delivering high, arcing fire over the ridgelines, breaking up those human waves, became perhaps the most valuable weapon the Marines had. But their supply of mortar rounds was quickly depleted. Emergency requests for resupply were sent by radio, using code words for specific items. The code for 60mm mortar ammo was “Tootsie Rolls” — but the radio operator receiving that urgent request didn’t have the Marines’ code sheets. All he knew was that the request came from command authority, it was extremely urgent — and there were tons of Tootsie Rolls at supply bases in Japan.

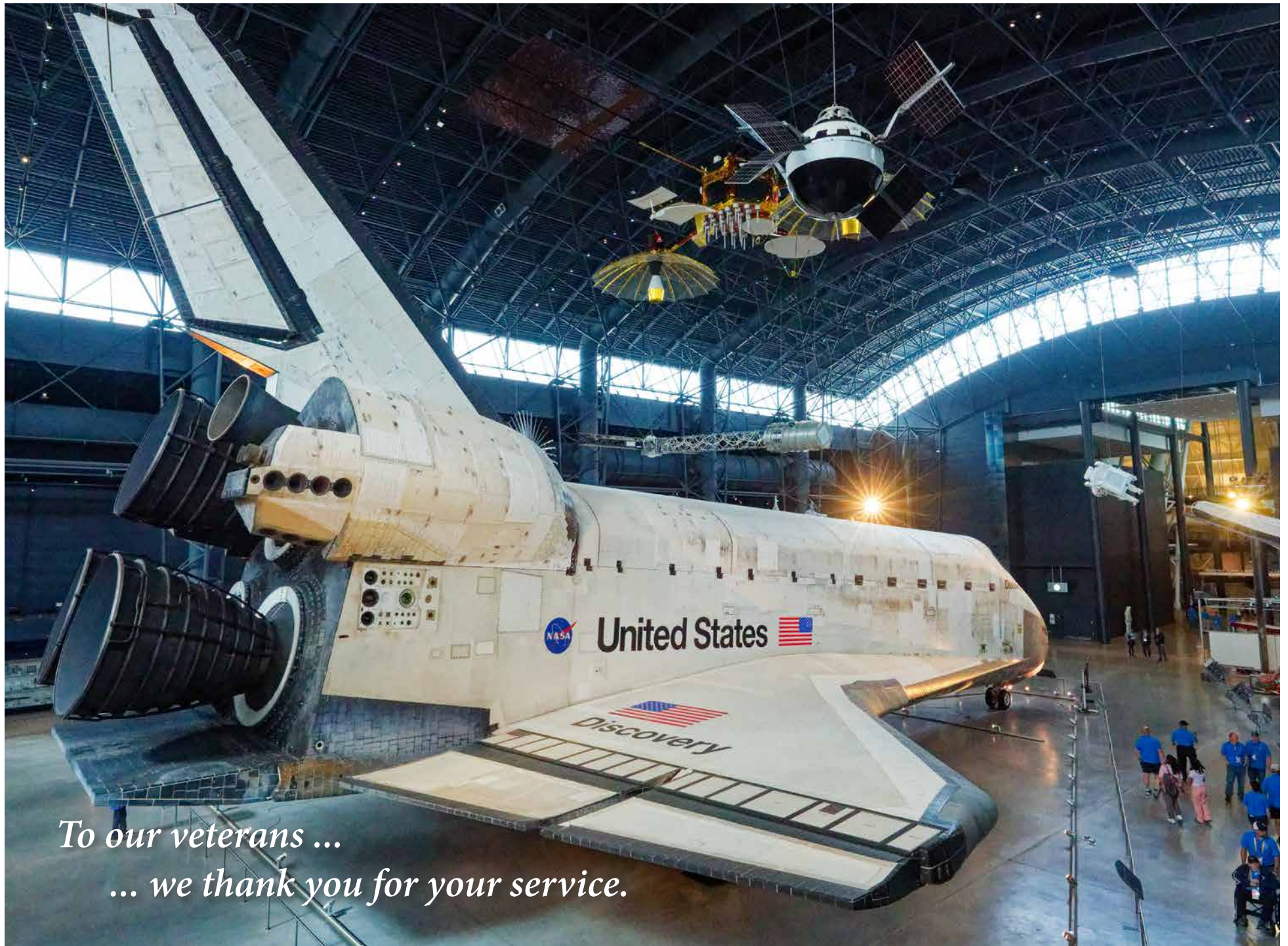
Tootsie Rolls had been issued with other rations to US troops since World War I, earning preferred status because they held up so well to heat, cold and rough handling compared to other candies.

Tootsies From The Sky

Tearing through the clouds and fog, parachutes bearing pallet-loads of Tootsie Rolls descended on the Marines. After initial shocked reactions, the freezing, starving troops rejoiced. Frozen Tootsie Rolls were thawed in armpits, popped in mouths, and their sugar provided instant energy. For many, Tootsie Rolls were their only nourishment for days. The troops also learned they could use warmed Tootsie Rolls to plug bullet holes in fuel drums, gas tanks, cans and radiators, where they would freeze solid again, sealing the leaks.

Over two weeks of unspeakable misery, movement and murderous fighting, the 15,000-man column suffered 3,000 killed in action, 6,000 wounded and thousands of severe frostbite cases. But they reached the sea, demolishing several Chinese divisions in the process. Hundreds credited their very survival to Tootsie Rolls. Surviving Marines called themselves “The Chosin Few,” and among themselves, another name: *The Tootsie Roll Marines*. Join me in sharing their story — and some Tootsie Rolls. Connor OUT





*To our veterans ...
... we thank you for your service.*



Army. Vietnam & Korea. 1967 – 1969. Sgt E-5. Worked as Construction Draftsman & a Truck Driver among other things. I was in Vietnam June of 68-April 69. While I was over there I also tended bar at the ARCOM Senior NCO Club. I was at Camp Emari in the central highlands of Vietnam. ARCOM Bartender at Senior NCO Club Vietnam Campaign Medal & Vietnam Service Medal.





Army. Vietnam. January November 3, 1965 – November 2, 1967.
E4. 101st Airborne Paratrooper Clerk. Did not get out of the
states. Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Vietnam. January 7, 1958 – February 1988. 20 years. E9 Chief Master Sergeant. Involved in baby Lift, Assisting in recovery of the dead and wounded. Two Presidential Citations, Two Airforce Citations. Assisted in flights into Cambodia and Laos. Honorable Discharge.



Navy. Vietnam. February 1970 – September 1974. 03 Lieutenant. Honorable Discharge. CSAR Hac Combat Air Craft Commander. 3 tours in Vietnam. 150 flight missions. Rescued 3 pilots from hostile fire. Most decorated squadron in the Navy.





Army. Vietnam. October 1965 – August 1967.
Spec 4. Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam
Service Medal, National Defense Medal.





Navy. Vietnam. E-3 A-3. Enlisted US Navy reserve March 1959 Active Duty March 1960 – 1962 aboard USS Lake Champlain CVS 39 Honorable Discharge March 4, 1965. Fueler on the flight deck for a month. Then I took the job of the Yeoman when he left. I was in the office during the week. When we had flight operations I was mainly on the deck. On board USS Champlain CVS 39 recovered first US astronaut Allen Shepard On board for US blockade Of Cuba during the Missile Crisis Worked in Flight deck control and on the flight deck for Aviation fuels department Yoeman for Aviation fuels Department Part of the line of ships that Spanned the Atlantic Ocean When President Kennedy Flew for a summit in Europe Traveled on board to several foreign ports And ports up and down east coast Our fleet was part of Cold War defense East coast Anti-submarine warfare.



Army. Vietnam. CW2. Combat Intelligence Officer-was in Vietnam twice, in Europe once. 9 years in active duty and 6 years w/ Army reserves. Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal. As a combat Intel officer I was keeping daily briefings on 5 enemy locations. Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Korea. 1952 – 1955. Airman 2nd Class. I was clerical. I typed orders up. I started out at Lackland AFB. From there I went to Hill AFB, Ogden UT. Then Selfridge AFB and I was sent to Ent AFB before I was discharged. I was considered a “ground breaker” for women in the service. There weren’t many women in the service and our jobs were limited.





Army. Vietnam. E-4. Infantry. Vietnam Service medal, Marksman, Expert M14 & M60, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry, Bronze Star, Good Conduct, National Defense and air medal. Purple Heart-101st Airborne, we were in the Valley of Death and we were overrun. Guys were running out of ammo. I low crawled to them and then got hit with shrapnel. Bronze Star-Myself and Platoon Sgt were being fired on from an ambush, Took Bunker out. Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Vietnam. May 1966 – June 1975. Captain. Chaplin. Air Force Commendation Medal for him establishing Chapel on base. Most memorable experience while stationed in Spain took “young ones” on base around Easter on an outing, drove kids down in busses from the base. Returning from trip bus acting up heading for tunnel, no brakes, no barriers on road, downshifted to slow, engine died on base after returning. No one knew the brakes blew. Kids said he “killed the bird.” Honorable Discharge.





Marines. Vietnam. 1967 – 1969.
Infantry 27th Marines. Purple heart-
lost leg. Honorable Discharge.





Marines. Vietnam.



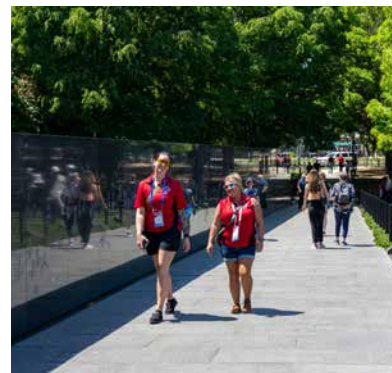


Army. Vietnam. December 29,
1966 – January 1, 1987. E6. 9 years
in Germany. Honorable Discharge.



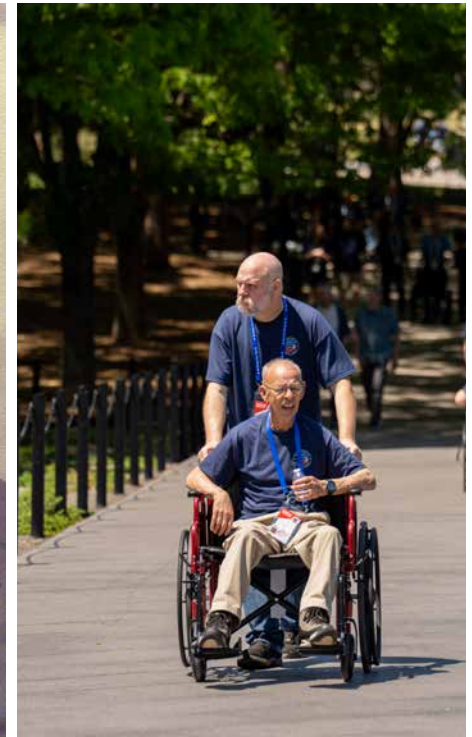
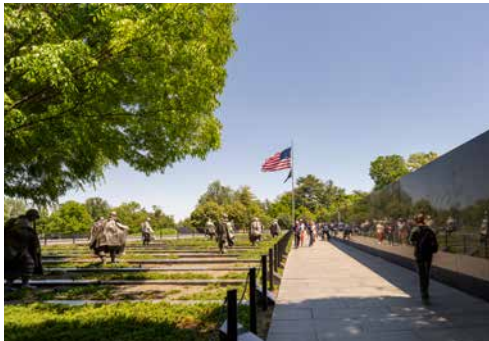


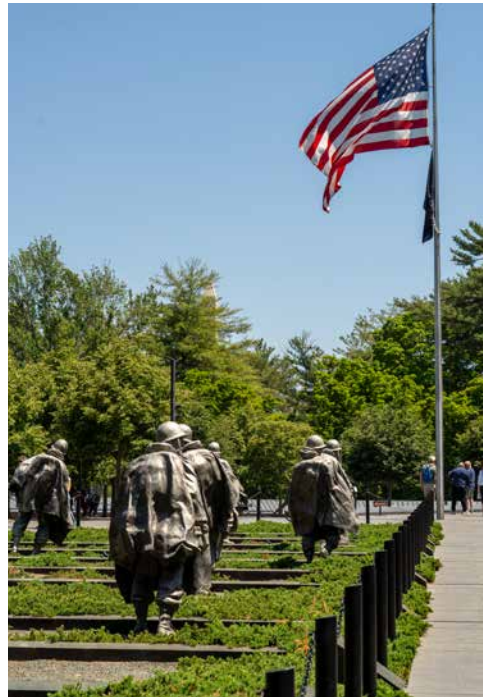
Air Force. Vietnam. February 1969 – December 1972 Crew Chief Aircraft Maintenance - Vietnam Veteran 1970 – 1971. SSGT E-5. Worked with a "capsule" on the Laos border which was doing top secret work. Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal.



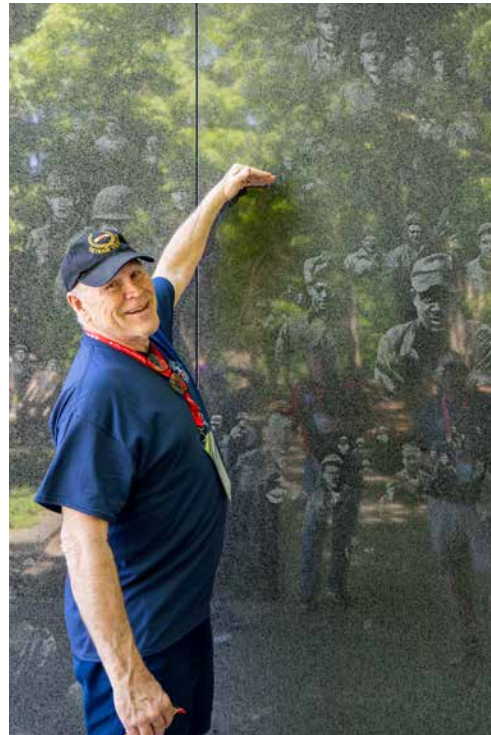


Navy. Korea. April 1954 – January 1958. CT-3. Communications Tech. Attached to Naval security. I spent most of my time in Washington DC. I was stationed in Washington DC. I worked a job of high level security. I had a clearance. I started at NSS. I worked the last two years I was attached to NSA. It was my biggest assignment. I flew some cargo which sent me to other place. I was sent to a Naval Station called Quarters K, that was on Columbia Pike. It was a joint base that also had a WAVE detachment. The Marines were down the street. Also we were by the Naval Bureau of Personnel. Good Conduct Medal & National Defense Medal.





Marines. Vietnam. 1966 – 1968. Sgt. In the Marines I was a 1391, that was my MOS but I was in fuel, tankers came into us and we had all of the different types fuel plus diesel that we'd need. We were as far north as you could go in Vietnam & we could see the DMZ. We were in an outpost by ourselves, there weren't any towns near by. We weren't far from Quang Tre. Our fuel would be in 10,000 lbs of rubber bladders. Whoever needed fuel would come to us. We were right on the edge of the China Sea. Vietnam Service Medal & Campaign Medal.



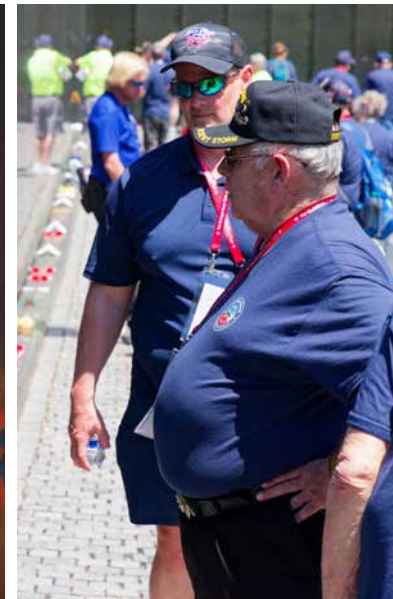


Navy. Korea & Vietnam. July 1951 – September 1974. Radioman on various submarines. Retired as a Master Chief Radioman - E9. Navy Achievement Medal (2 awards), Navy Unit Commendation for service while assigned to Naval Communication Station in the Philippines, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation for service aboard the USS Wahoo, Navy Good Conduct Medal (6 awards), Navy Expeditionary Medal for service aboard the USS Wahoo, National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), Vietnam Service Medal (2 awards), Cold War Victory Commemorative Medal, Vietnam Service Commemorative Medal, Letter of Appreciation - Strength Through Competence.





Navy. Vietnam. 1966 – 1972. PO-3. I was the last pipefitter. I took care of all of the freshwater lines that went to the reactors. I had top security clearance. I was sent to Vietnam each year that I was in. I was on the USS Enterprise. Getting ready to go to Vietnam one year, we had a fire when a bomb set off a bunch of bombs and 37 people died on the flight deck. Vietnam Service and Campaign medal.



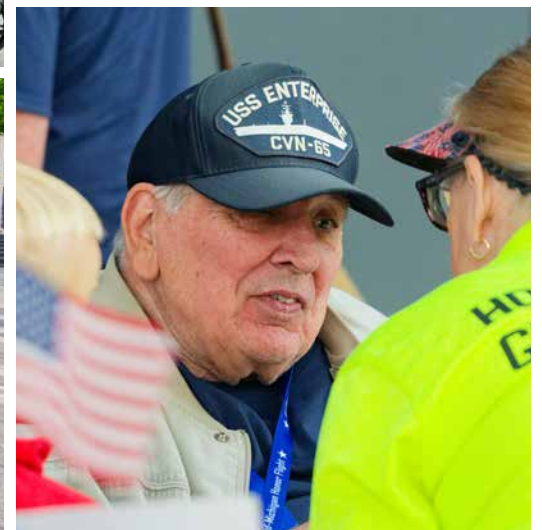


Army. Vietnam. All Active duty April 2, 1964 – March 29, 1966. Specialist E-4. Honorable Discharge. Received a Sharp Shooter Award/ Radio SB22 switchboard Operator. Sailed across ocean with the Engineer unit and became the radio operator and driver.





Army. Vietnam. Army infantry, first calvary division, flew Huey helicopters, flew on over 100 combat assaults. Movie called "We were Soldiers" was made about our platoon. First a book, then a movie. Received combat infantry badge.



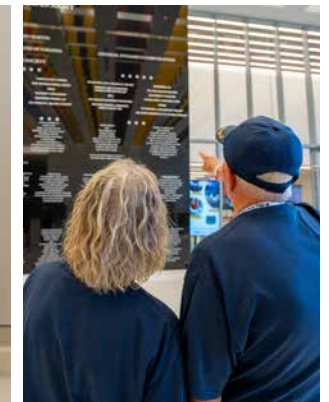


Army. Vietnam. February 24, 1969
 – February 24, 1971. Spec 5 / E5.
 Fire direction control NCO Artillery
 unit - work the data on. Getting
 home was a good experience
 (I made it home!) Honorable
 Discharge.



Army. Vietnam. January 6, 1966 – January 6, 1968. E5. Infantry radio operator. Assigned to 114th assault helicopter company as radio operator. Vietnam Ribbon, Marksman Qualified. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam.





Army. Vietnam. August 13, 1968 – March 19, 1970. SPEC 4 E-7. Assigned 2nd Esh. Mechanic. Then I went on to be a OJT C. Co Truck mechanic & B Co. generator mechanic, headquarters 124 Signal Battl. I was all over the central highlands of Vietnam. NTL SD. MKM M14 & EYP M16 VC MC4, VSM I fired the 50 Cal during an attack. National Service Defense. Vietnam Campaign & Vietnam service Medals. Served in 10 campaigns. Active motor Sargent. Army Commendation Medal. Honorable Discharge.



AMERICAN VETERAN

by Thomas Updike

*I am an American veteran, I fought to set you free
From those right here at home, and those across the sea
I heard my national calling, stepped up to do my part
To stop all who would harm us, in a fight we did not start
Yes, I am an American veteran, I fought to set you free
Now I lie here in the ground, of Arlington cemetery*

*I am an American veteran, I have served in every war
It really does not matter, the uniforms that I wore
I landed on the beaches, sailed on every sea
Fought in all the jungles, flew combat above all three
Yes, I am an American veteran, I fought to set you free
Now I lie here in the ground, of a land across the sea*

*I am an American veteran, I will always fight for you
Your back ground does not matter, black, white, Muslim, Jew
No matter what the times are, I will always answer the call
I am right here beside you, and will always give my all
Yes, I am an American veteran, I still fight to keep you free
I stand here on this ground, and sail the waters of the sea*

*So many of our youth, have died to keep us free
They never had the chance, to see what they could be
I lift my eyes to heaven, and give thanks to those so brave
They gave their lives in battle, and for those they could not save
Give thanks to all those veterans, who have fought to keep us free
So we can enjoy our freedoms, from sea to shining sea*





Army. Vietnam. June 7, 1966 – April 5, 1968.
E-4. 91B20 MED SPEC. I had the opportunity
to accompany an army doctor one day a
week for two months to assist in surgery
at a local provincial hospital. The biggest
challenge during my service was witnessing
the chaos & carnage during the 1968 Tet
Offensive. National Defense Service Medal,
Army Commendation Medal w/V Device for
Valor, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam
Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal.





Air Force. Vietnam. 1969 – 1977. Master Sergeant. Air Force Security Police. Mark began his career in the Air Force on March 31, 1961 at Lockland Air Force Base in Texas. He was stationed at Mildenhall Air Force base in England from 1961-1965, followed by Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Michigan until 1966. Mark volunteered for duty in Vietnam from 1967-1968, serving during the TET Offensive. His commitment continued at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois until his honorable discharge in February 1969, having attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Notably, he also contributed during the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1976 he rejoined with the Air Force National Guard at Selfridge Air Base in Michigan, where he served until 1993, accumulating 24+ years of service. Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Vietnam. February 1969 – December 1972 Crew Chief Aircraft Maintenance - Vietnam Veteran 1970 - 1971. SSGT E-5. Worked with a "capsule" on the Laos border which was doing top secret work. Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal.





Air Force. Vietnam. February 1966 – December 1969, February 1973 – August 1979. E5. 1st enlistment - K9 handler / sentry guard 2nd enlistment - Radar service tech. Vietnam Service Ribbon. Honorable Discharge.



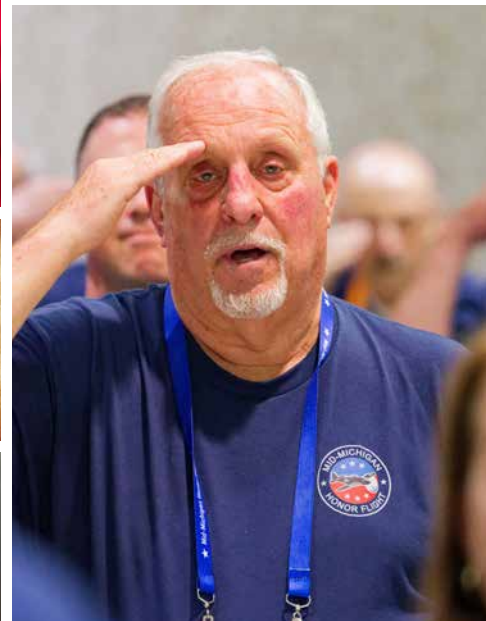


Army. Vietnam. 1958 – 1960. PFC. Hospital training.
I worked in hospitals-a nurse aide position/medic.
I married my husband while we were in the service.
I was a nurse aide medic & he served for 20 years.





Army. Vietnam. August 1968 – August 1994 (28 years). Lt Col. Bronze Star.





Marines. Vietnam. 7th Marines, lots of action. E4.
Normal accommodations. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Korea. November 3, 1951 – August 12, 1953. Corporal. Rifleman. Re : DD214 BLK 27 -- KSM W/1BSS, UNSM, CIBAD (PAR 1 SO ???74 APO 301 14 Jul 52) CIB & medals that go with. Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Vietnam.
August 1964 – 1972. E-5
/ Staff Sergeant. Head
of Marching/ Drill Team
performed in marching
parades in California/Guam.





Army. Vietnam & Gulf War / War on Terrorism. May 12, 1971 – May 1973, May 1975 – Feb 1994. E6. Bronze star, air assault school accomplished. Brought back all his soldiers! Honorable Discharge.





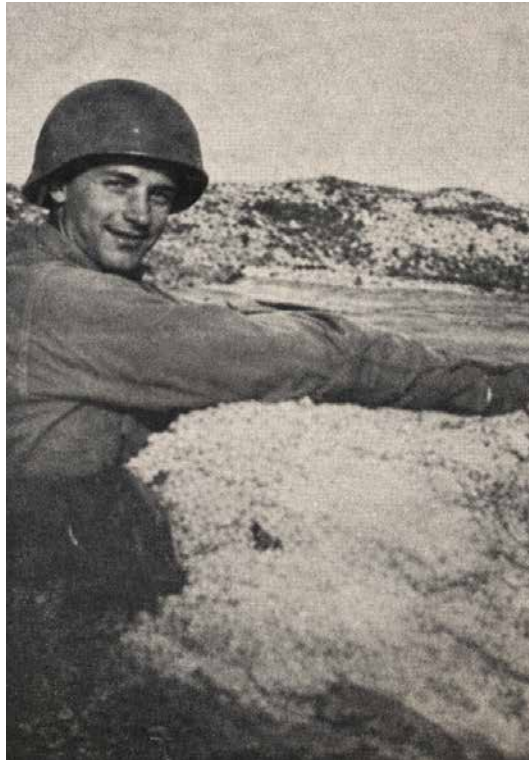
Air Force. Vietnam. Air Force/ AF Natl Guard
January 1953 – January 1979. Pilot-flew C97
(cargo plane) flying cargo/supplies into
Danang and body bags
out. Couldn't remember
- he's 90 - he has a lot.
Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. October 10, 1965 – October 11, 1968.
Special welfare school
1967 jump school 12/66. 7
special forces blown up in a
truck received Purple Heart
in Vietnam. Honorable
Discharge.





Navy. Korea & Vietnam. I was in reserves: Oct 1958 – 1964. Then active duty: March 10, 1957 – February 1959. FTSN. Ship I was on wanted to go on a west pac cruise & they didn't want to fly me back. So I left because I was getting married. Honorable Discharge.

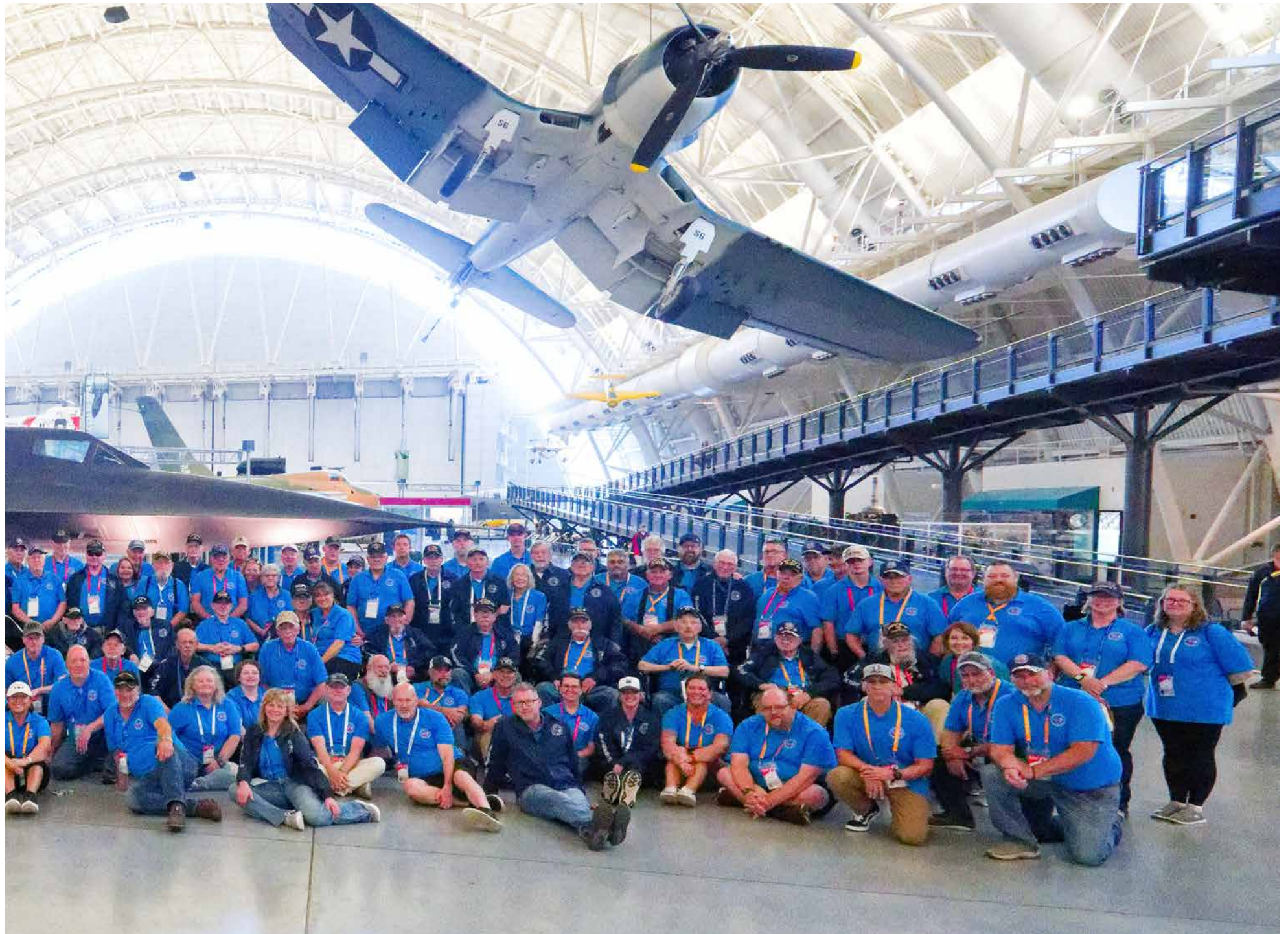


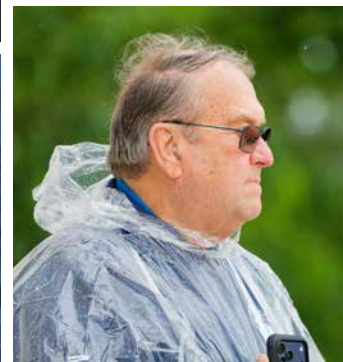
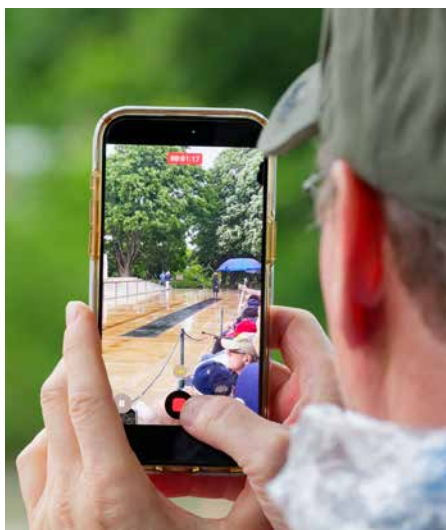


Air Force. Vietnam.
January 1970 –
December 1973.
Sergeant.









Air Force. Vietnam. September 27, 1960 – September 1, 1964. ECM Tech, 99th A&E Maint Sq, Westover AFB, Chicopee Falls, Mass. SAC. AIC E4. 2nd shift Supervisor over electronic counter measures. AFGCM (September 27, 1960 – September 26, 1963) SO G15, Hq 57 Air Div, 1964. Honorable Discharge.



Navy. Vietnam. 1964 – 1970, Active Duty September 1965 – September 1967. E-5. Hated being in port. Ship fitter. Destroyer and tender. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. August 1966
– July 1968. E 5. Drafted to
Vietnam for 11 months as
a tanker with 11th Cavalry
unit. Combat infantry badge.
Honorable Discharge.





Navy. Vietnam & Lebanon/Grenada.
 March 1, 1960 – August 31, 1980. Chief
 Petty Officer E7. Primarily a mechanic -
 engine man, diesel engines, hydraulics,
 low-pressure steam, et cetera. Navy
 Commendation with Combat V Antarctica
 Service Medal Vietnam Service Medal
 Vietnam Campaign Medal Good conduct
 12 consecutive years - gold stripe on
 uniform (that he can no longer fit into :))
 National Defense Combat Action Ribbon
 Presidential Unit Citation Meritorious Unit
 Citation Naval Advisor in Vietnam - Worked
 with Vietnamese Navy Vietnamese Cross
 Gallantry - Awarded by South Vietnamese
 Government. Honorable Discharge.





Navy. Vietnam. October 8, 1972 – October 7, 1978. DS1. Data Systems Technician. 1st ship was survey ship USNS Harkness, survey the bottom of the ocean, on board off the Dominica Republic, last duty & ship he commissioned the CVN69 Dwight Eisenhower. Good Conduct and National Defense awards in Vietnam. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. January 1968 – December 1970.
E5. Front Line Soldier Grunt 11B52. Bronze Star
for Jungle Combat. Honorable Discharge.



Air Force. Vietnam. June 29, 1972 – July 1, 1992. E5. Air Cargo Specialist. Mission to San Diego, for a supply drop out of the aircraft, turned out to that they had to transport two live killer whales. Assisted loading the whales into the C141 and flew the whales to New Zealand. Expert Firearms ribbon, National Service ribbon, Desert Storm and shield ribbons.





Army. Vietnam. 1969 – 1970. E-4. Army artillery. Honorable Discharge.





Marines. Vietnam.
E5. Grunt, machine
gunner. Vietnam
service ribbon,
good conduct, loved
playing High Low and
and in-between using
my US Script money,
and I ended up
buying my 1966 GTO
with my script money
when I got home.
Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. August 1965 – August 1968 Army Airborne. E-4. March 1966 – March 1967 101st Airborne.





Army. Vietnam. 1969 – 1972. Sgt E-5. Trained as Helicopter Mechanic
 Worked in vault w/ top secret materials.
 Arcomx3 Was stationed in Germany.





Army. Vietnam. February 1964 – February 1966. E4. Was not deployed stayed stateside an MP, was in Fort Gordon and Fort Jackson. Worked in the stockade and escorted prisoners by train to Fort Leavenworth. They wouldn't let them fly in case they had to use a gun. Marksman. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. E4.
11th Bravo. Assigned
to 261st signal brigade,
sent to Tuyhoa.
Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. Captain. June 1965 – Nov 1969. Maintenance officer and Training Supply office. Went to OCS, assigned to be in charge of a motor pool at Fort Leonard wood, MO In charge of transporting 5000 tankers of fuel oil, gasoline for the barracks and operate the post. Went into the military as a Private and discharged as an 2nd LT. Stepped into a man hole grate during Training march. Doesn't remember the awards/citation. Honorable Discharge.





Marines. Vietnam. 1969 – 1972. Corporal E-4. Anti-Tank Assault. Nothing really happened but I was thankful to get out alive. Served 1 tour in Vietnam. I received the Vietnam Campaign Medal & Vietnam Service Medal Majority of time spent on board a ship.





Army. Vietnam. Unable to update service hx at this time. UTC vet directly.





Navy. Vietnam. September 1967 – September 1973. D5. Aviation Machine Specialist. Tour on the JFK aircraft carrier.





Army. Vietnam. March 1, 1967 – February 28, 1969. E5. Infantry Administrative when came home from Vietnam. Meeting new people. Returned from Vietnam - escorted a body home for burial. Honorable Discharge.









Army. WW II. March 1946 – September 1952. Mechanic firefight school
Swimming school Out of the service -
job at Oldsmobile & then journeyman
as a plumber. WWII awards Berlin
Enjoyed it. Lent money 10 for 15/ saved
money and sent it home so he bought a
new car when he got home. Honorable
Discharge.





Navy. Vietnam. 1962 – 1966.
Petty Officer Third Class.
Worked as electrician. Two tours
to Vietnam - Vietnam service
medal. Post Commander.
Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Vietnam. September 1968 – April 1972. E5. Air Force Security Police Man. One night on Air Base, track commanded, crossed ravine straight and lost a track. Maintenance had to come replace the track, weren't able to fight in recon, then valley was nicknamed "Tribbett's Gulch." Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. 1970-1973. E-5 SPC-5. Aircraft mechanic. I was sent to Vietnam & when I got back I went to Fort Bragg for the last year and a half. In Vietnam I was sent to an Army airbase, Long Thang North. I was there 95% of the time & was only flown out for repairs a couple of times. I worked with Command Aircraft Company. Vietnam Campaign Medal & the Vietnam Service Medal.

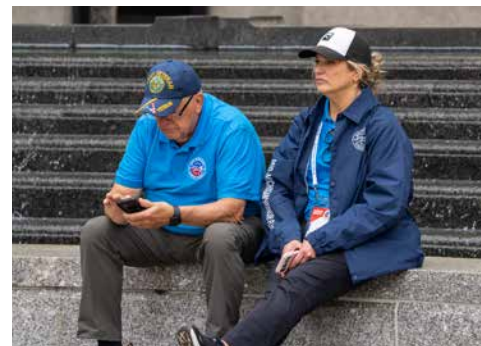




Army. Vietnam. May 1969 – December 1970. E5. Airplane mechanic, Vietnam for 11 months, Vietnam service commendation, many interesting experiences but most were x rated.



Army. Vietnam. 1967 – 1969
Medical. Sgt E-5. Light Weapons
Infantry 11-B. Hospitalized
for about 8 months, multiple
gun shot wounds. Bronze Star
Valor, Purple Heart CIB, Good
Conduct Medal.

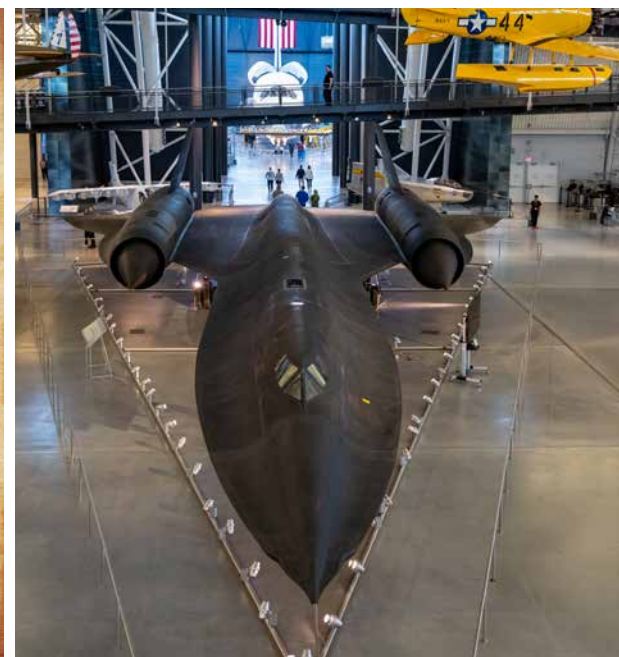


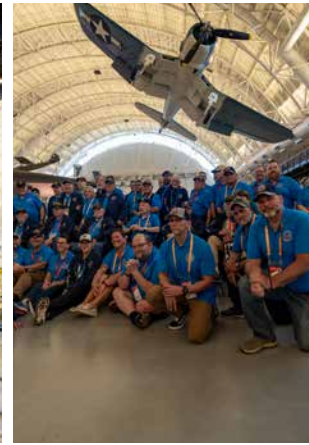


WILLIAMSON
PATRICK B
83 10 19
MSG OOR30



Army. Vietnam.
E-4. 1969 – 1971.
Sgt. E-5. I was with
ordnance. I handled
everything from
ammo up to nuke.
I spent 20 months
in Korea and that's
where I was exposed
to Agent Orange,
as it was in the
ammo. Korea medal,
oversea service etc.
Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam.
September 1959 – 1965.
Specialist. Gunner on 105
Recoilless rifle - mounted
on back of quarter-
ton vehicle. Honorable
Discharge.





Navy. Vietnam. 1964 – 1968 Active duty. EN-2. Diesel Mechanic on a Survey Ship. There were only two of them in the US Navy. One on the Atlantic Fleet, one on the Pacific Fleet. We were home ported out of Hawaii. We carried two 50' long boats. We surveyed the depth of the water using sonar. We had shore stations. We had two of them-measuring longitude & latitude. It would give you a number & we'd put down a radio tower. Four of us worked on it at a time. If you went out 50 years later & did the same work you'd be able to find where you were back then. Our usual uniform of the day of usually a bathing suit. Our head was so small that if you used it & then needed to get up & step out sideways to pull up your pants. We were extended on our tour because the ship from the Atlantic fleet was supposed to come over to replace us. They had a boiler problem, and it took three months to fix it. The second time we were sent out, it was supposed to be for six months and it ended up being seven months. I also had almost two full years in country-spending that time going along the full coast of Vietnam. We were sent in the small 50' boats to locate the mouth of the Mekong Delta. At one point we got to within a mile of the DMZ. Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. Honorable Discharge.





Army, Air Force. Vietnam.
May 1963 – March 1966
Army 1971 – 1973 Airforce
Served in Guam Michigan
National Guard 1977 – 1985.
E-7. Airforce Shunoot Air
base graduated top honors.
Meritorious Service Medal
at Guam while repairing
jet engines. Zero failures
during his tenure. Honorable
Discharge.





Army. Vietnam. April 1969 – July 1970. SP-4.
Served in the Engineer Company and drove a
5 ton dumptruck. Assisted in building roads in
Cambodia and Vietnam. Truck hit a land mine
and he was unconscious for several hours and
then went back to work. Honorable Discharge.



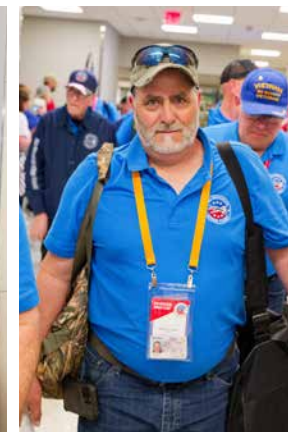


Navy. Korea, Vietnam. 1964 – 1968.
EMT-3. Ship electrician. I worked on the
shipboard equipment, like antennae &
radar. I spent the better part of 2 1/2
years on the USS Ranger CVA-61. We
saw Bob Hope & his entertainers came
on the ship. One of the pilots from the
ship was shot down & a POW 5 1/2
months. He was rescued & brought
back to the ship. Vietnam Campaign,
Vietnam Service Medal.





Marines. Vietnam. 1967 – 1971. E-5.
Vietnam-Quantico-Guantanamo Bay,
Cuba With 26th Marine Div in Kasen.
Machine Gunner. Purple Heart-
Wounded in Vietnam, Shrapnel/
motor, have lung injury. Vietnam
Serv w/2 campaign medals, CIB,
Vietnam Gallantry medal. Honorable
Discharge.





Navy. Vietnam. August 20, 1958 – May 4, 1978. E7. Diesel sub qualified partook Cuban missile blockade. hauled gas for the see bees. conflict Durning the DR conflict. mine sweeper last ship on. Looked for russian subs over 6m cruise. Sonar. Honorable Discharge.





Air Force. Vietnam.
June 1968 – December
1971. E4. Telephone
communication
systems. Received
unit award for valor.
Honorable Discharge.





Army. Korea. 1947 – 1953. Corporal machine, gunner. POW for 33 months in Korea, being awarded the POW medal. Prisoner of war for 33 months, Purple Heart, he has more but he can't remember. Honorable Discharge.





Navy. Korea. March 8, 1951 – March 9, 1955. E-5. Damage Controlman- First responder for any emergencies. Not deployed, aboard 43 months on a ship during my career, 2 different ships. Ship U.S.S. Corregidor C.V.E 58 took on alot of water in the North Sea. Honorable Discharge.





Marines. Vietnam. August 11, 1958 – August 1964, August 11, 1958 – August 1961
Active duty. Cpl. E-4. Served with Marine Air Group 16 in Oppama, Japan. I was the driver for the commanding officer, a full bird colonel. I did everything they told me to do. Besides the care of a small fleet of vehicles, I was the guard mail clerk, his helicopter crew chief and also did this for the entire group adjutant staff. This was a very demanding and strenuous duty. Often working 14 to 18 hours at a day. From Japan we deployed to Taiwan and then to Okinawa plus all over the S. E. Asian Seas. During this time my first wife divorced me and took me to the cleaners. This was very hard on me, being a Catholic educated young man. Honorable Discharge.



Army. Vietnam. Army active duty and reserves May 1968 – January 22, 2010. E8. Turbine engine repair on helo's, door gunner. Worked as a contracted mechanic for Bell helicopter in Iran during the fall of the Shaw of Iran. Vietnam Air Medal, Vietnam Service ribbon, Civil Service ribbon, Victorious service medal, good conduct medal, national service medal, global war on terrorism medal, army forces reserve medal. and many other medals and ribbons. During the draft, I knew I was going to drafted, so I went early to the draft board. And signed up. I was given my RA number that I never forgot, because I had to know it and say it after I got out of the gas chamber training. to this day I still remember it, RA68023248. My dad said it's better to go regular army instead of drafted. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam & Other. July 17, 1967 – February 17, 1969. E4. Artillery crew, and then went to Supply Sergeant. I really enjoyed R&R in Tokyo Japan and Sydney, Australia. I got the R&R because I extended my tour in Vietnam. Received a Bronze Star for service and Purple Heart during a 122 mm rocket attack. While running into my bunker, I got hit in the head from hitting my head on the roof of the bunker. I was awarded the medal 50 years later because the injury happened during battle but was funny circumstance for the injury. I was a pro at finding cover when needed! Honorable Discharge.



Welcome Home

I watched a young soldier take his seat on the plane.
The guy by the window said, "son what's your name?"

He said, "Hi I'm Jimmy, just back from overseas
and when these boots touch down in Texas, I'm gonna drop to my knees.

Because I ain't seen my wife in 18 months and 14 days."
The man smiled at him and said, "well let me be the first to say:

Welcome Home, Welcome Home,
It's good to have you back where you belong.
You fought hard for this land you love,
and I thank you for all of us.
We're proud to call you one of our own,
welcome home."

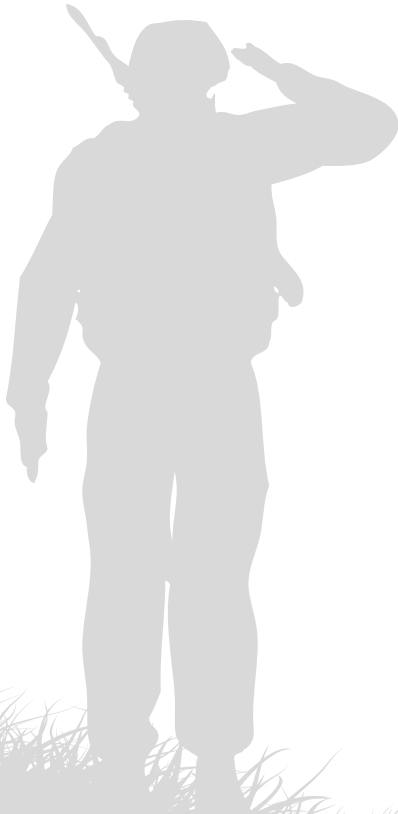
Then the man looked away and said, "I know how you must feel.
I spent two long years in Vietnam and I got back to Jacksonville.
There were protest sign and picket lines and some girl spit in my face.
Hey I was just a kid tryin' to make this world a safe place."

Then his voice started trembling, in his eyes I saw a tear.
He said, "I didn't need a hero's welcome but it'd been sure nice to hear..

Welcome Home, Welcome Home,
It's good to have you back where you belong.
You fought hard for this land you love,
and I thank you for all of us.
We're proud to call you one of our own,
welcome home."

Well the band was playin,
and the crowd was cheering,
as we came walking through that gate.
Then the soldier stopped and turned to the man
standing near him,
he saluted him and said, "Sir I know it's a little late but...

Welcome Home, Welcome Home,
It's good to have you back where you belong.
You fought hard for this land you love,
and I thank you for all of us.
We're proud to call you one of our own,
Welcome home....."



MAY 5-6, 2026 FLIGHT

Gregory Anderson	Michael Fitzgerald	William Kruse	Jonathan Stellema
John Ayres	Roger Freeze	Robert Kucinski	James Sundell
Terrance Beckhorn	Stan Frisbey	Harry Lance, Sr.	Paul Swelnis
Stan Bennette	John Glover	Joseph Lange	Frederick Terrell
James Black	Mason Grahl	John Ledl	Michael Thaler
Robert Brownell	Robert Grile	James Leese	Clifford Tholen, Jr.
Mark Buckberry	Freeman Haehnel	James Liberty	Russell Thomas
Arthur Burke	Robert Haase	David Lopez	Michael Tillman
David Chesney	John Hipple, Sr.	Ruth Miller	Michael Tribbett
William Childress	Edwin Hood	Kenneth Mosher, Jr.	Michael VanHouten
Marvin Clark	Donald Houseworth	Terrance Murphy	Cornelius VanderMaas
Cheryl Colley	Samuel Humpert	James O'Kelley	Daniel VanderMolen
Stuart Cottrell	Robert Huppert	Paul Ondarko	John Versluys
Richard Crosbie	Roy Hurt	Lawrence Oprych	Michael Wickson
Robert Crosbie	Robert Hutson	Bruce Palasek	Patrick Williamson
Leon Erbe	Jeryl Johnson	Dean Parker	Mitchell Wisniewski
John Erickson	Douglas Kamphuis	Tom Romein	Marilyn Woods
Ralph Fairbanks	Norman Khon	Richard Royston	Calvin Young
Patrick Finnegan	David Kloote	Robert Sowden	William Yuncker

Once a SOLDIER



Always a SOLDIER

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight • P.O. Box 98 • Gowen, Michigan 49326 • www.midmichiganhonorflight.org