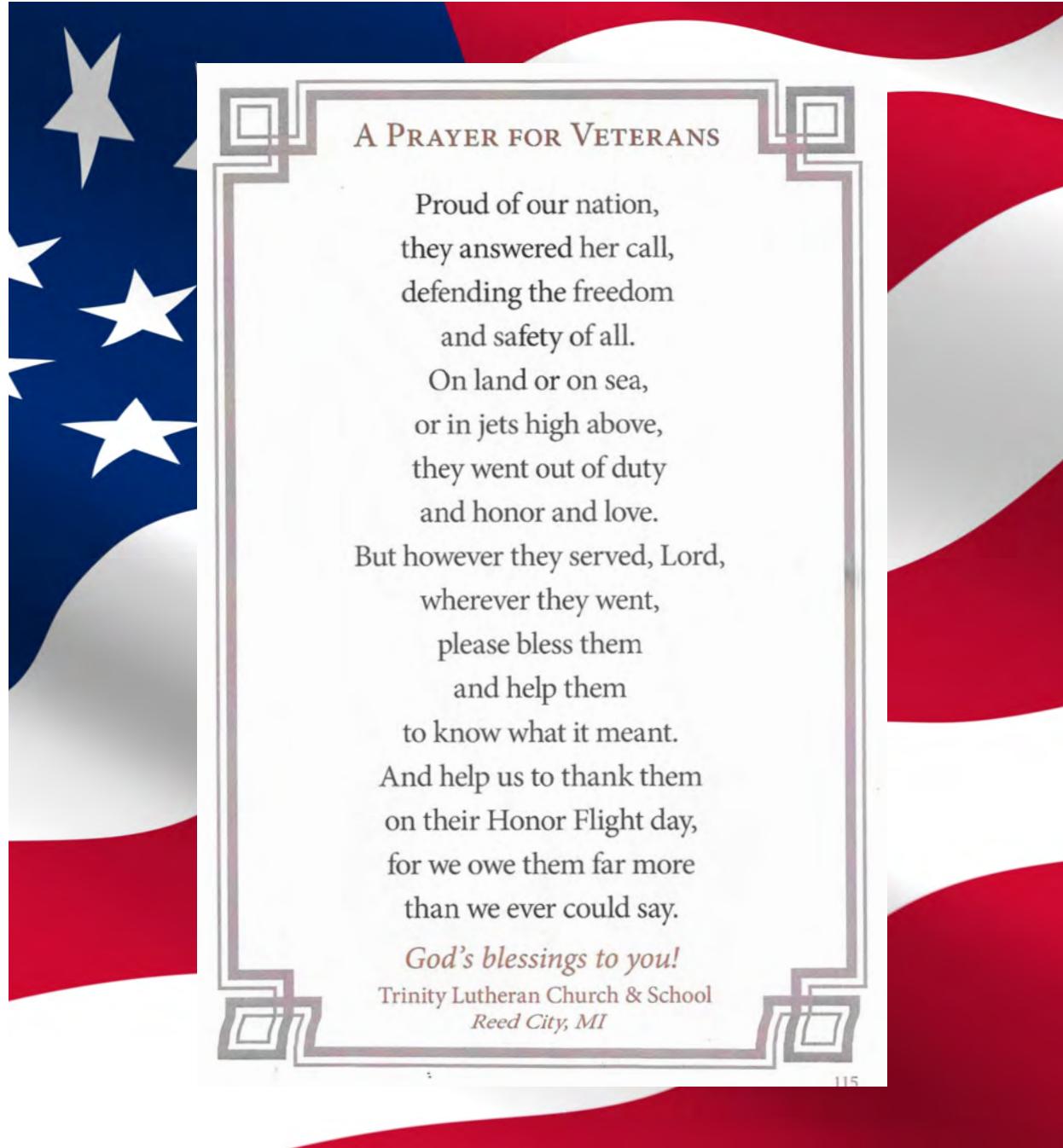


Mid-Michigan Honor Flight



Mission XVIII - May 7-8, 2024



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 #18 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

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Heather Green

Allen Sutherby

Brenda Gibson

John Jury

Flight Support: Bethany Joy Hamilton, Eric Alan Morrow, Sean Wethington, Ashley Danielle Hall

Michael Mortensen, Allen Sutherby, CJ Monsivais, Jacob Buse

Photographers: James Swoboda, Patricia Moll

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in Traverse City, MI. Thank you Bill and Amy!



*Official Hub of the
Honor Flight ® Network*

Acknowledgments

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 #18 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. 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 Airport employees, Meijer Family Foundation, Tee See Tees, Coins with Pride, B & B Printing, Project Hero Hugs, Leprino's, Ice Mountain, and all of our other Donors.

The number of hours put into a single Honor Flight Mission is mind-boggling. Between 2,000 and 2,500 volunteer hours were dedicated to making Mission #18 a resounding success. Our Staff and Volunteers again delivered the Trip of a Lifetime to our Veteran Honorees! 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 Nations Heroes.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our two 106-year-old WWII Veterans that graced us with their presence on this flight. Robert Holt joined us in person on this flight and is the oldest Veteran to have flown with us. Irene Hosking was unable to join us in person due to health issues, however she was with us in spirit and by photograph. Both of them passed away in August 2024.

Media Credits:

We wish to thank the following media outlets for their coverage and support of Mission #18:

Wood TV Channel 8 Grand Rapids

Amber Krycka and Nicholas Ponton



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 *Midges*. 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 syringes 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



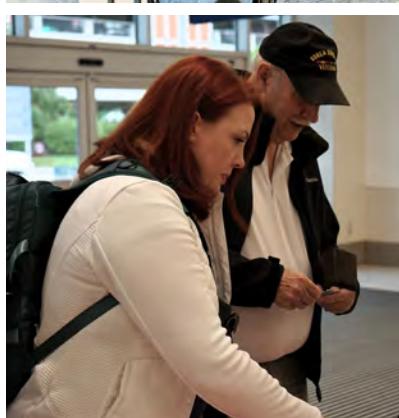


To our veterans ...

*... we thank you
for your service.*



Army. Vietnam War. 1970 -1971. 1st Air Cavalry, carried radio, infantry in Vietnam. Sharpshooter MGM 60, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/ Palm, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert (Rifle).



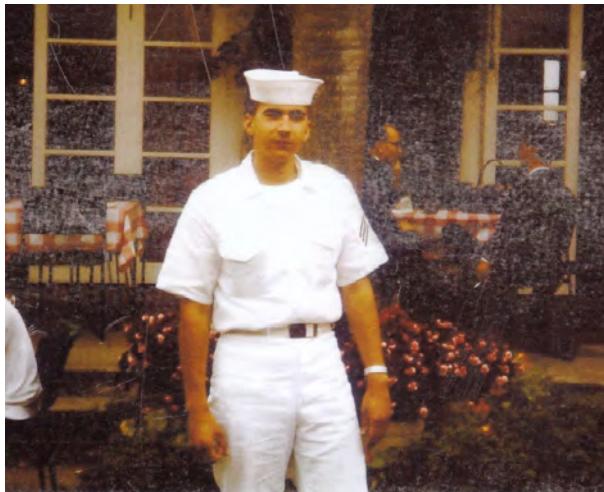


Navy. Vietnam War. 1961 – 1966. ET3. Fix communications equipment in radio shack. Was not in the war, was on ship. Was involved in Cuban Crisis.





Navy. Vietnam War. December 5, 1967 – July 1, 1973. Was a YN3 in "A" Division on board the USS Saratoga doing filing papers, answering phones for officers, doing some typing. Made two tours in the Mediterranean Sea visiting various ports. National Defense Service Medal.

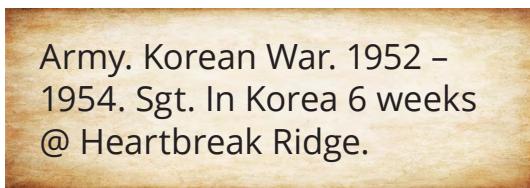


Army. Vietnam War. July 1969 – July 1971. E-5. 101st Airborne. Co. E 2nd 501st Recon. Air Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Marksman (Rifle) Bronze Star, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class Unit Citation Badge.





Air Force. Vietnam War.
April 8, 1964 – May 24, 1968. Air Frame Maintenance. 14th Air Commando Group Na Trang Vietnam SSG E-4. MOSM, AFM 900-3, VSM, AFM 900-3, RVCM, AFM 900-3.





Marines. Korea and Vietnam wars. 1955 – 1961 Corporal Infantry, machine gunner, Demonstration Troops and at one point in time my Company Commander and I didn't get along well. I had a tough job keeping out of his view.



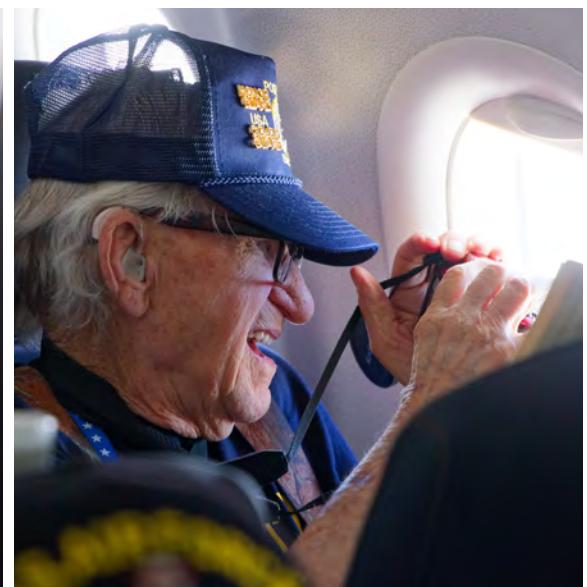


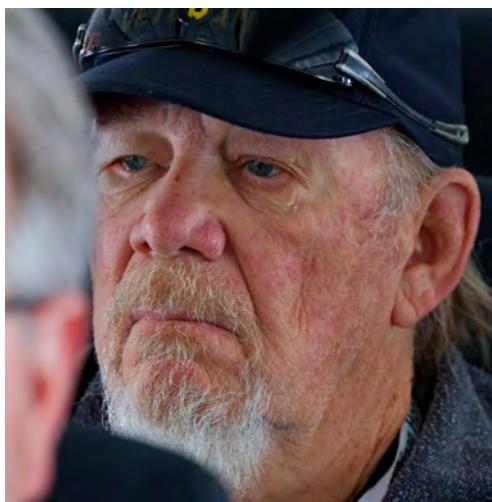
US Navy. Vietnam War. June 15, 1970 – June 15, 1974. RM3 (Radioman Petty Officer 3rd Class). Communications. Radio ship to ship and ship to shore. Teletype ship to ship and ship to shore. All the different countries we traveled to while at sea. I also served in the Michigan National Guard January 1980 – January 1984. I have 10 years of service to my county, and I am very proud of that. US Navy – Vietnam Service Medal w/ 1 Bronze Star, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Michigan National Guard – Army Service Ribbon and Broadsword Medal.





Army. Vietnam War. 1968 –
1969. S-4. Infantry.





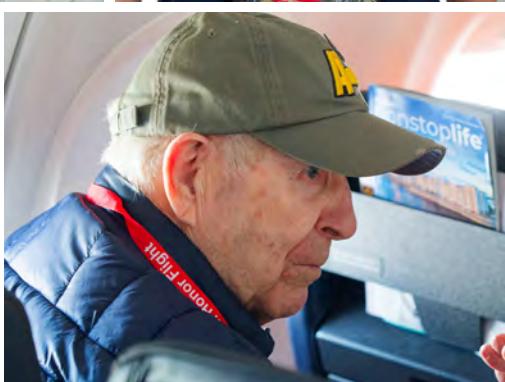
Air Force. Vietnam War. March 16, 1966 – January 5, 1970. Staff Sergeant, F4 C, D & RF Crew Chief, Maintenance Dock NCO, refueling pit leader, runway arm and de-arm team leader. Going to Korea in support of the taking of the ship Pueblo by Korea in 1969. ONDD214 – NDSM, AFGCM (16 Mar 66 – 15 Mar 69), AFM 900-31, SAEMR, SOG-9, 1 Feb 67, 831st CSGP11.





US Army. Vietnam War. June 1966 – July 1969. E-4. MP. Stationed in Germany. My brother was a helicopter medic that was shot down in Vietnam. Sadly, he was killed.



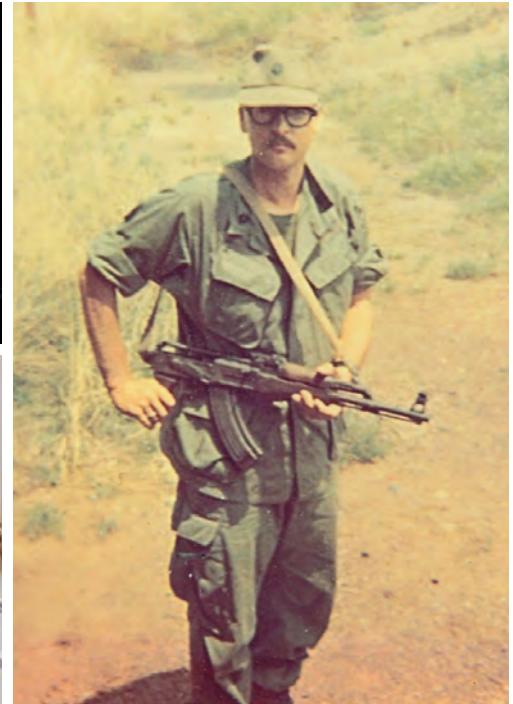
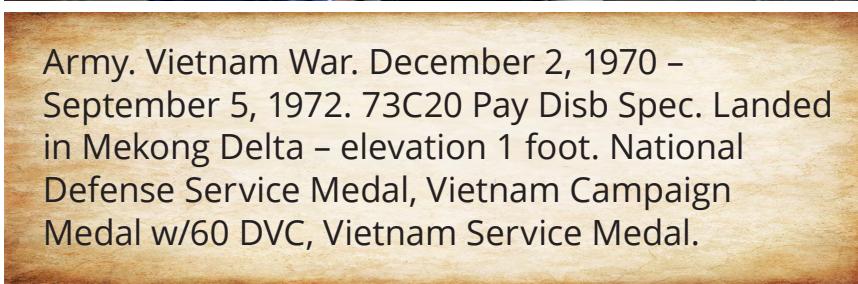
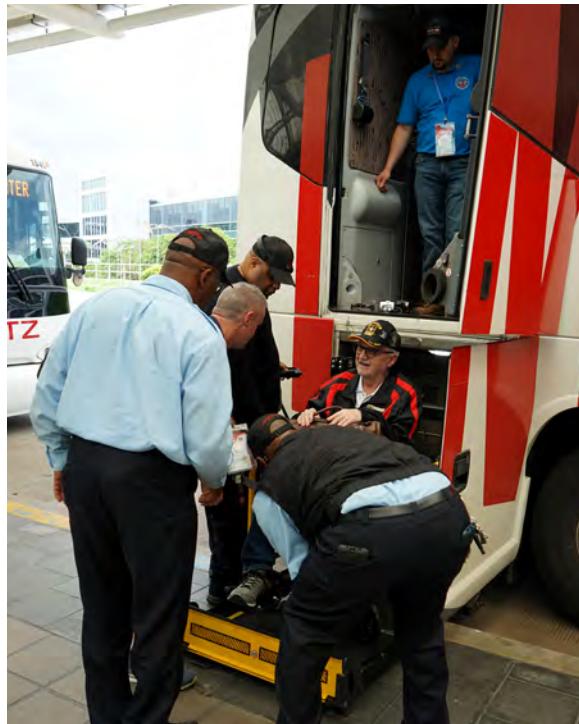


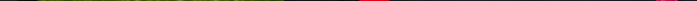
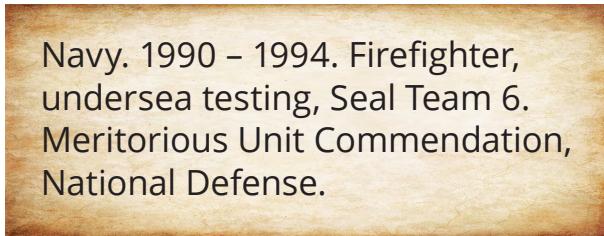
Air Force. September 1984 - December 1993. Aircraft Armament Specialist - B-52, B-1 Master Instructor. E-5, Staff Sergeant. Air Force Commendation Medal w/Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal w/2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal. Also recognized as 40th Air Division Airman of the Year.



US Navy. Vietnam War.
February 1964 – January
1968. ETN2 E5, Lead
Electronic Tech on the USS
Boyd DD544. 2 tours of
duty off Vietnam.
Maintained the radio
electronic equipment on
the ship. Lead ETN2 E5.
Our ship had the honor of
sinking the most Japanese
tonnage of the Vietnam War.
Aircraft Carrier support,
Shelling land to support our
troops, Sea war games with
the Australian and
New Zealand Navies.

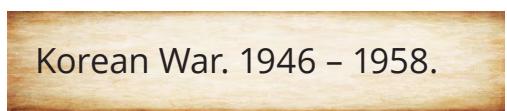






Navy. Vietnam War. June 1959 – June 1963. EN-3. On-board hearing and air conditioning, phone talker during General Quarters, also Engineman on Higgins boat. Good Conduct, I am told there is an award for Cuban Missile Crisis.









Army. Vietnam War. March 1969 – January 1972. Spec 5, Huey Crew Chief. Crash and shot down. National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal.

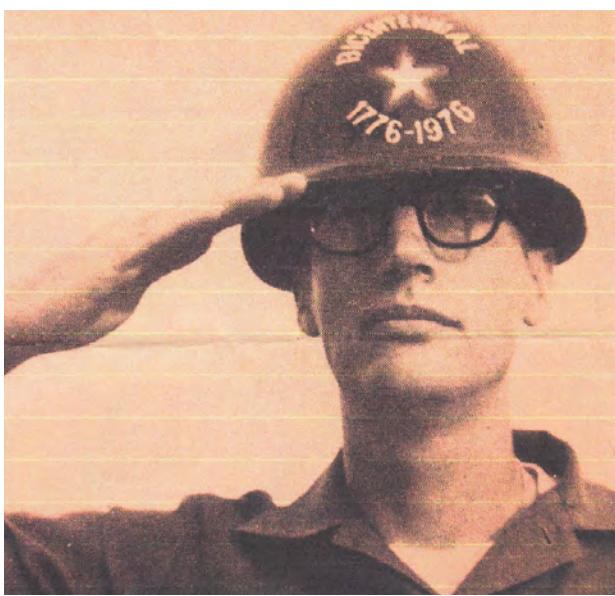






USA. Korean War. 1955 –
1957. Spec. Medic.





Navy. Vietnam War. November 19, 1962 – July 16, 1965. Storekeeper, NOAC & Navy ATCO worked at Hickam Airfield. Parent Command Supply Center Pearl Harbor.





USMC. Vietnam War. 1966 – 1970. E-4 CDL. Auto Mechanic, Maintenance Chief. National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service w/ 1 Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/ Device, RVN Cross of Gallantry w/ Palm & Frame Medal, Naval Accommodation Medal, Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.





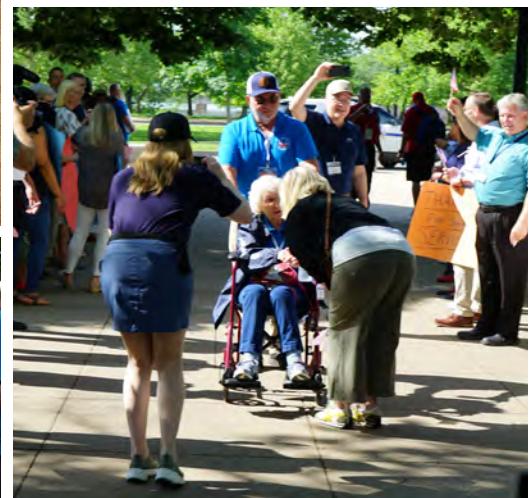
USMC. Vietnam War. August 11, 1964 – May 15, 1969. Captain. Supply Officer, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.
National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation.







Army. Korean War. Arms Artificer. Selected as Training Cadre, taken out of regular duty and transferred to special services to play in a 5-piece combo band playing string bass for the Christmas show for the commanding officer of Fort Hood. Acting Corporal.





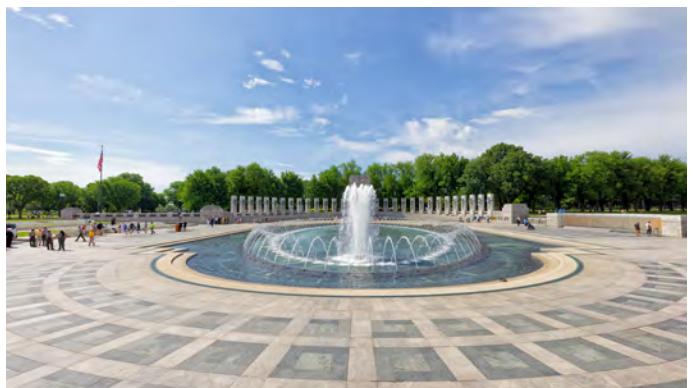
Navy. Vietnam War. January 9, 1971. Load 3 inch .50 cal. Deck work, standby watches. Ardi 91972 Dor in Dong Hoi Battle. Visiting different countries. New friends made. Service in combat with these friends. Navy National Defense Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal w/ 1 Bronze Star, Republic Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Navy Unit Commendation.

USAF. Korean and Vietnam wars. July 1, 1954 – April 30, 1976. Aircraft Loadmaster, stenographer, recruiter. Loadmaster on aircraft that carried President Johnson's limo on one of his trips. In Vietnam during TET. National Service Medal. Vietnam Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, AF Good Conduct Medal w/ 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, AF Longevity Medal.



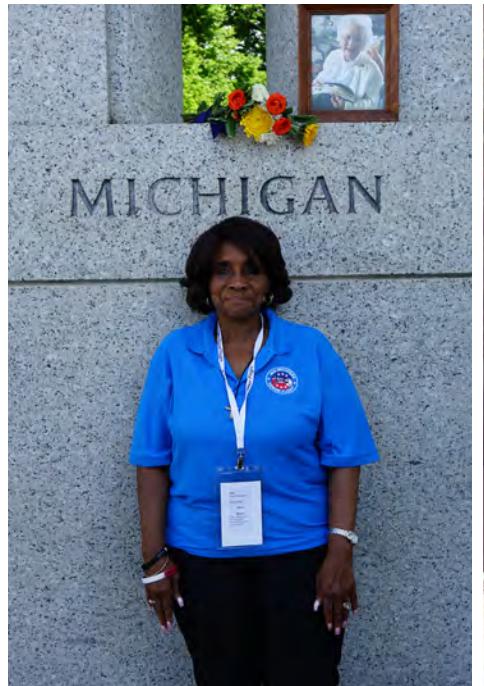


Navy. Korean War. December 5, 1955 – March 17, 1958. Engine and pump maintenance. Crossing the equator becoming a shell back. Good Conduct Medal.



Army. Vietnam War. March 11, 1959 – November 1, 1963. Sgt E-5. Adjutant General Division, Headquarters Berlin Command. Served in Berlin while it was still an occupied city (WWII), served during the Cold War period, served 110 miles behind the Iron Curtain (Berlin), was present at the Brandenburg Gate where the Berlin Wall construction started... within 2 hours. Had been in East Berlin, served 1 shift of guard duty at Spandau Allied Prison (berlin) and witnessed Rudolf Hess working in his garden, passed through Check Point Charlie several times, Nikita Khrushchev said "Berlin was the most dangerous place on Earth", was assigned (worked) to Command Headquarters (office work), my story is on file at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Berlin), Good Conduct Medal, Expert (Rifle M-14), Vietnam Veteran Era Bonus.





Marines. Vietnam. September 19, 1967 – November 3, 1969. Marine infantry. Corporal. I served with President Johnson's son-in-law as my commanding officer.



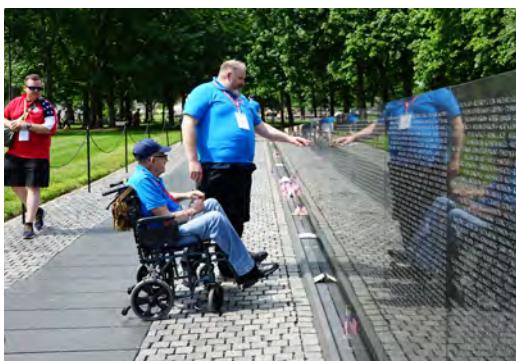
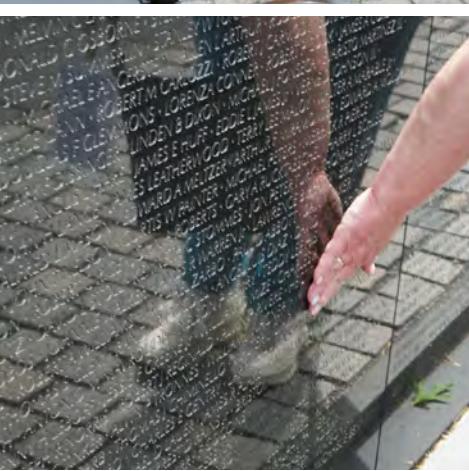
Marines. Korean War. 1954 – 1955. Communications, switchboard. Working alone during the night on Parris Island and got a red alert call from Charleston that a hurricane was going to hit. Woke the captain and they got all the troops to the middle of the island. Everyone was safe. Have been told I have 4 medals should be coming.







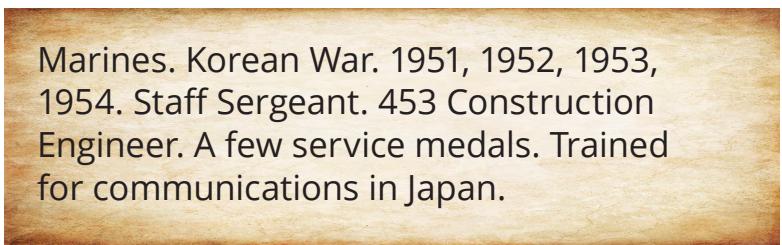
USAF. Vietnam War. 1968 – 1972. SSGT. Security – Dog Handler. I served in Da Nang, on the DMZ in Dong Ha and a K-9 handler in Phu Cat 1969-70





Army. Vietnam War. Service: October 2, 1969 – May 7, 1971. In-country: April 6, 1970 – May 7, 1971. Rank SP4 (E4).







Air Force. Vietman War.





Army. Vietnam War. E-5 Sgt. Infantry, Sniper.







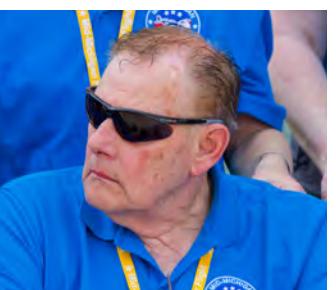
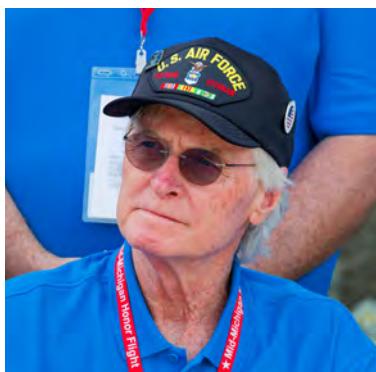
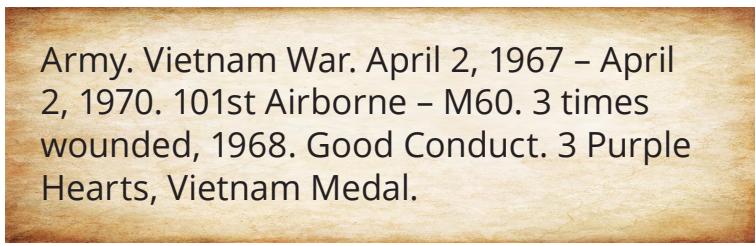


Navy. Vietnam War. January 15, 1966 – October 15, 1969. Intelligence processing. Plotting naval air and sea missions using computer driven devices. National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal.



Air Force. Korean War. June 7, 1956 – June 8, 1960. A/2C. I worked as an orthopedic appliance technician at Lackland AFB during the time of transition from a ramp hospital to a multi-storied building. At that time there were less than 50 in that career field service wide, the rest of the brace makers were civilian employees.







Army. Korean War. October 1952 – August 1954. Cpl. Survey. Got under Jeep when enemy fired shells toward us! United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Ribbon w/ 1 Bronze Service Star, National Defense Service Medal.



Army. World War II. 1LT. 1939 – 1945. Learned anesthesiology from Captain Malcolm Hawk including spinals. Sent to Brisbane, Australia to administer anesthesia and spinals unassisted.



Army. Vietnam War. November 1, 1974 – January 31, 1978, Sergeant E-5, MOS 05K non-morse intercept operator, Security Clearance: Top Secret, Special Intelligence, Cryptographic. I am a Vietnam Area Veteran who served in Korea. Completed my bachelor's degree while on duty with the 332 ASA Operations Company Forward May 1976. Part of Operation Paul Bunyon, August 1976, the Korean Axe murders. As a Spec 4, given temporary field promotion to A/NCOIC of the operations Platoon of the 332 ASA operations company forward. October 1976 graduated from 8th Army NCO Academy Korea 1977-1978 A/NCOIC of Operations 370 ASA company rear, ASA Field Station One, Vint Hill Farms Station, VA. January 1878 declined an offer to attend Officer's Candidate Training, to pursue civilian opportunities. Medals: Good Conduct, Korean Defense, Professional Development.







Navy. Vietnam War. September 1968 – September 1970. SFP 3, E-A. Plumber and welder, damage control, fire fighter, first to fire or explosions. Vietnam Service Medal w/ 6 Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Navy Meritorious Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Combat Action Ribbon Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.





Navy. Korean War. 1951 – 1961.
Gunners Mate. Served on tanker and 4 different destroyers. Went through submarine training at New London, Connecticut. National Defense, European Occupation, Good Conduct.





Army. Vietnam War.
February 6, 1964 – February 5, 1966. P.F.C. Repair radios and string wires for communications. How atmosphere changed when our 1st man was killed. Trying to stay dry when daily rains came. Viewing how big the ant hills were. Figuring out what the tubes were for that were in the ground.





Army. Vietnam War. November 1964 – September 1966. Spec E-4. Patrol Saigon Harbor. Bring new troops up Saigon River Vuy Tan to Saigon Harbor, carry messages all over. Bob Hope Christmas Show, then off to another fire fight. National Defense Service, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, Good Conduct.





Navy. Korean War. June 1952 – December 1954.
Helmsman of a mine sweeper USS Pochard 375.





Navy. Korean War. E-5 Seaman.
1955 – 1957.

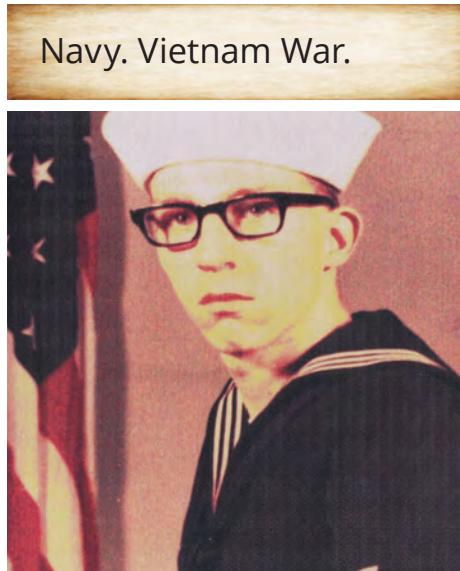




Army. Korean War. July 26, 1954 – July 26, 1957.
Ammunition Clerk.









Army. Vietnam War. October 16, 1966
- October 8, 1968. SP-5 (T). Cook.
National Defense Service, Vietnam
Service, Vietnam Campaign, Good
Conduct, Army Commendation.

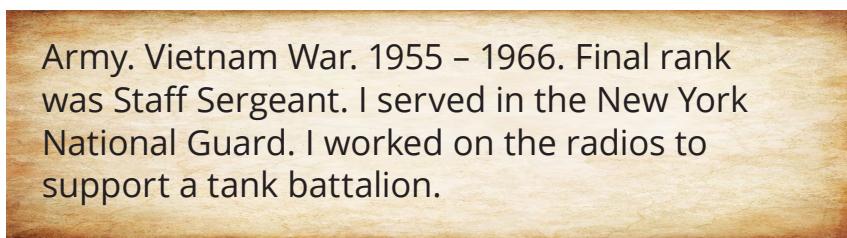


USAM. Vietnam War.
August 11, 1970 – April 10, 1976. Weapon Release Mechanic, PMEL Electronic Tech. I came back alive. Commendation Medal as Weapons Release Specialist.





Marines. Korean War.
January 24, 1951 –
January 23, 1954.
Military Police - April
1951 – 27 months, 12
days. Instructor Office
Candidate School June
1953 – January 1954.
National Defense.
Good Conduct.







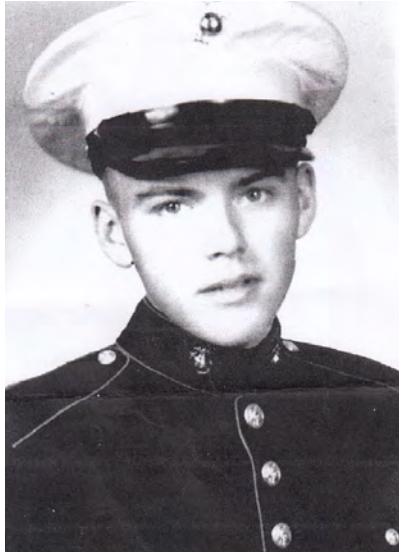
Army. Vietnam War. January 1969 – November 1969.
Hardship discharge. PFC, Infantry. Brigade DRO.





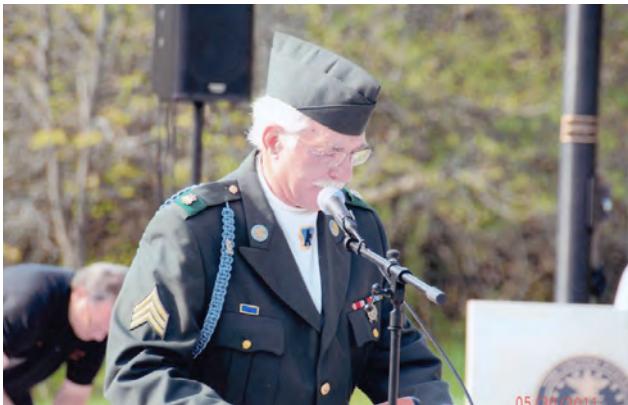
USMC. Vietnam War.
December 11, 1961 –
March 1966. E-4 Corporal.
Amphibious Tractor Crew
Chief. Good Conduct,
Vietnam Service Medal.





Army. Korean War. 1941 – 1945. Field Artillery, Truck Driver, Corporal. On my first day in Germany driving a truck, the truck hit a mine that totally destroyed the truck but I (Robert) didn't get a scratch on me.



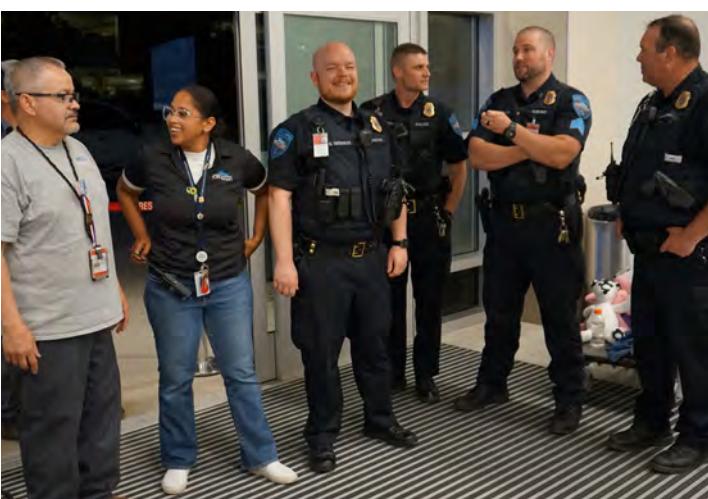


Army. Korean War. September 1952 – August 1954. Artillery.



Army. Korean War.
E-4. Assigned to
738 Ajax mission
battalion in defense
of Philadelphia, PA.
1979. Driver of the
Month of the 5th
Army, Driver of the
Year – 738 missile
battalion, Ajax
mission technician,
Senior Motor Pool
Advisor / Technician,
Commissary
Sergeant.



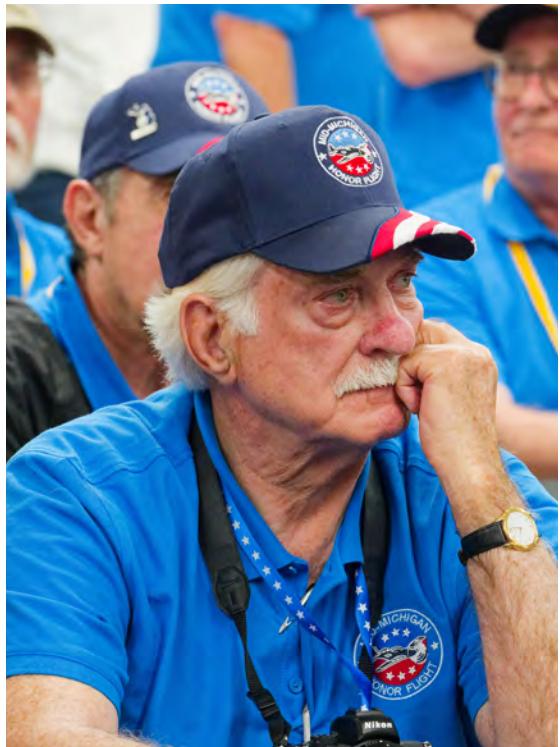


Army. Vietnam War. January 3, 1964 – October 1966. 1st Lt., Army Commendation Ribbon, Vietnam Combat Ribbon, Expert Shooter.

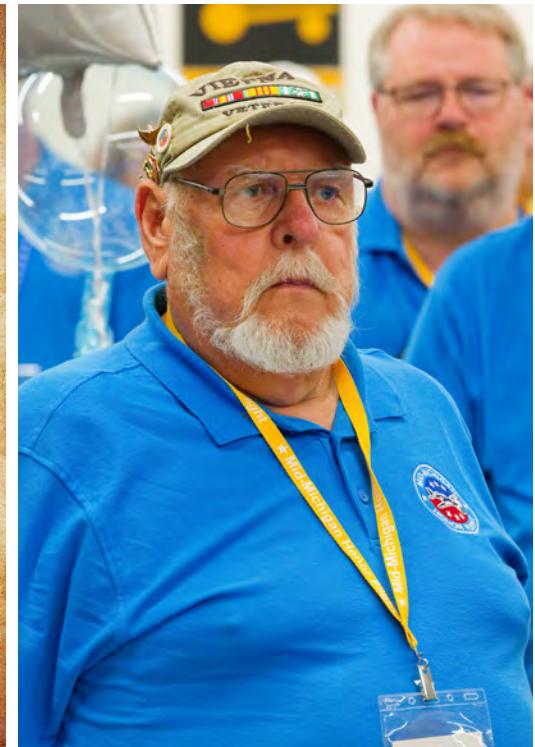


Navy. Vietnam War. July 4, 1960 – July 4, 1962 Active. IC3. Maintain sound powered phones and other communications on ship. Recovered Navy jet pilot at sea after jet engine stopped working. Chased Russian submarine for 24 hours making Sub surface.





Army. Vietnam War. November 4, 1968 – November 3, 1971. Sp5 / Sgt e-5. Repaired SLAR (Side Looking Airborne Radar) and supervised a repair shop of up to 12 repairmen to keep 12 recon planes flying recon over N Vietnam 24/7. I was in the 131st Avn Co stationed in Phu Bai S Vietnam. Our mission was to fly aerial reconnaissance over N Vietnam 24/7. I received the Army Accommodation Medal, second Oak Leaf Cluster for developing a new method of repairing the planes SLAR systems which greatly improved the company's efficiency. When I took over the repair shop, only 2 of the 12 planes were mission ready at any one time. After developing this system, when I left the unit, 10 of the 12 planes were mission ready at a time.





Air Force. Vietnam War. November 1972 – January 1981. E5. Weapons leader / mechanic. AF Commendation Medal, AF Longevity Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, AF Good Conduct Medal w/ Oak Leaf Cluster.





Army. Korean War. November 1, 1950 – October 23, 1952. Staff Sgt, Squad Leader in an Infantry Platoon at Ft. Richardson... Expert Inf. Men's badge, National Defense Service medal. When I arrived at Ft. Richardson, the concrete floor barracks were still under construction, and we were living and sleeping in 9 man squad tents, with a coal stove in each tent for heat.. One night a strong wind collapsed the roof of our tent, which collapsed the stove pipe, that vented out the roof... we all woke up, choking on coal smoke... needless to say, none of us got any sleep that night!





Army. Korean War. January 21, 1953 - January 20, 1955. A Battery 49th Anti Aircraft, Artillery Gun Battalion National CPL(T)13. National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, GO 11 Hq 49th AAA Bn 15 Dec 54.







Army. Korean War. 1953 – 1955.
Corporal – SP3. Tank driver, patrols at
Panama Canal. Sharpshtooter Pistol &
Rifle, National Defense Ribbon, Good
Conduct Medal, Expert 90 mm TK,
3rd Armored Division Discharge.

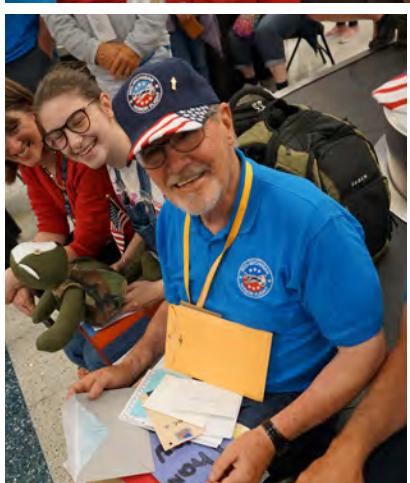


Army. Korean War. 1953 – 1955
Staff Sergeant 65th Infantry
3rd Army Division. Too many interesting experiences to list.
Group honors: Presidential Medal of Honor, National Service Medal, Korean Service Medal.





Navy. Korean War.



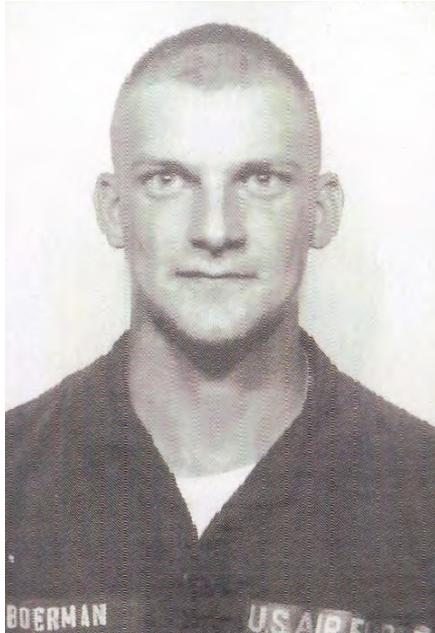


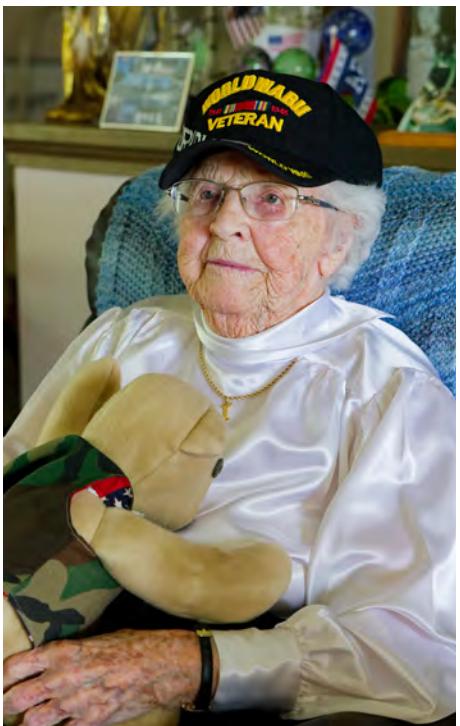
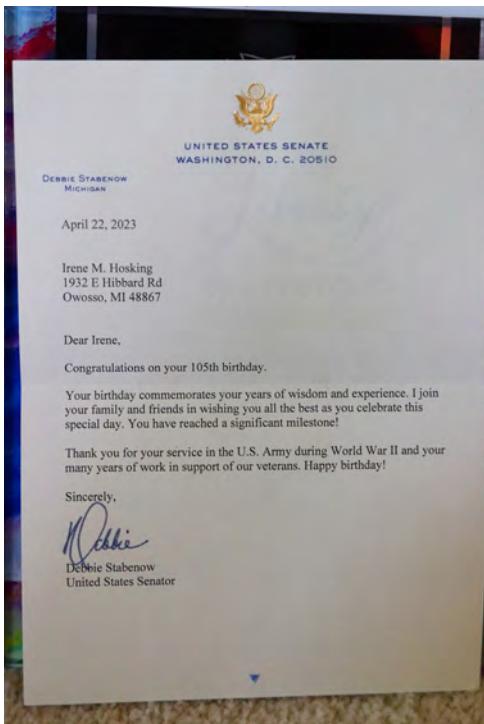
Marines. Korean War. January 6, 1957 – January 6, 1959. Office clerk, Corporal. Enjoyed my service in the Hawaiian Islands.





Army. Vietnam War. November 8, 1966. Sp5. Cook and driver. Was stationed in Germany, went there after truck driving school. AIT to drive 5-ton trucks. AIT at Ft Polk had order for 'Nam, called home, told family where they're sending me and writing of leave papers. That was in the morning. By 7 pm we were called out to line up with our orders. They took our orders, put us on bus and took us to the airport where I got new order for Germany. Good Conduct. A National Service Medal.





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."

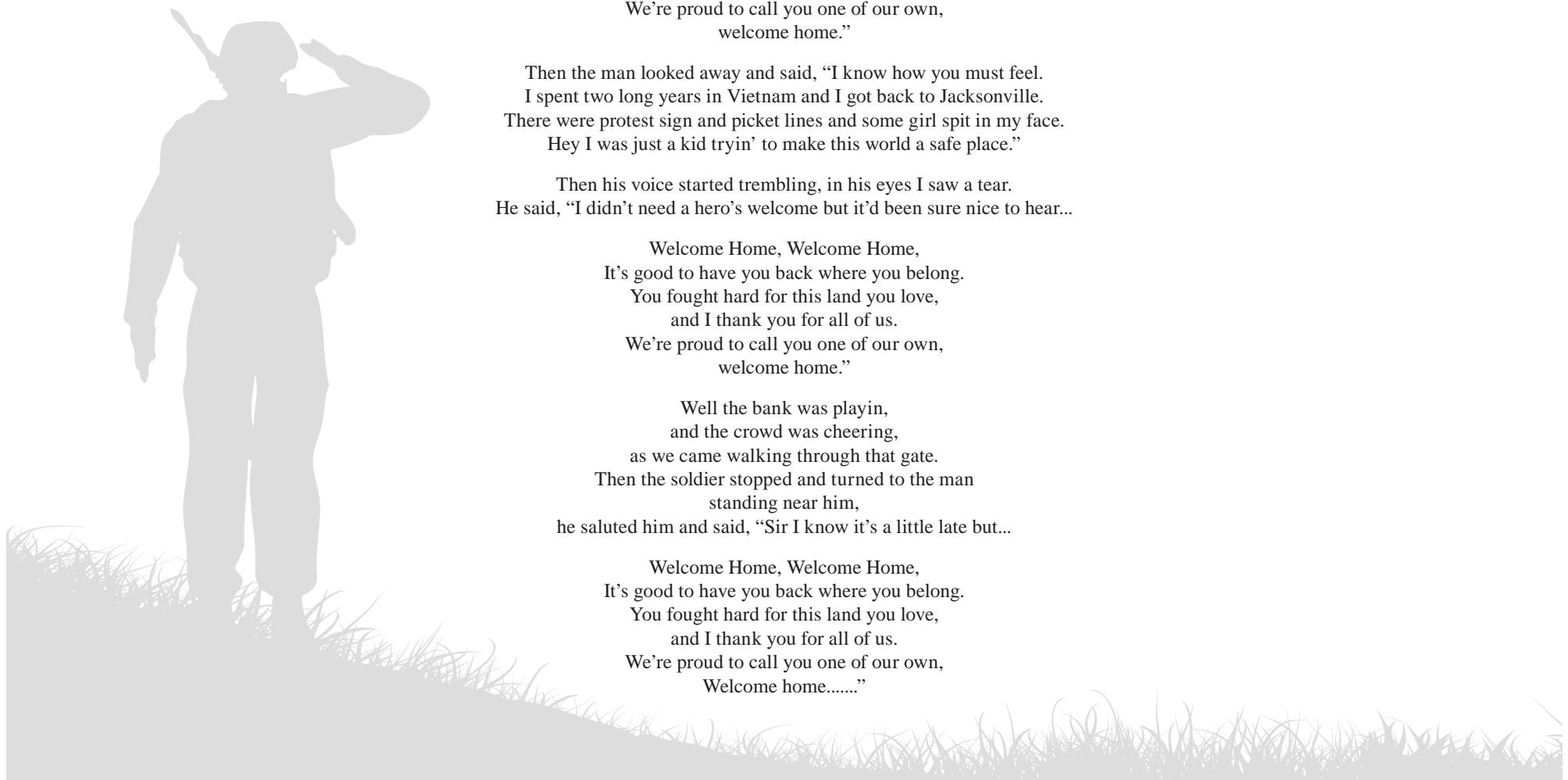
Then the man looked away and said, "I know how you must feel.
I spent two long years in Vietnam and I got back to Jacksonville.
There were protest sign and picket lines and some girl spit in my face.
Hey I was just a kid tryin' to make this world a safe place."

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 bank 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 7-8, 2024 FLIGHT

Richard Bantien	Lawrence Gawel	James Hutson	Carl Schauer
Donald Bauer	David Gingras	Ronald Kuzma	Richard Schmuckal
John Belger	William Gingras	Terry Lanning	Delbert Sheldon
William Bergmann	Texas Gladding	John Lund	John Sovey
Terry Boerman	Douglas Green	Richard Magnuson	David Spyke
Jerry Brandt	Dean Gregg	Dawn McLamb	Fredrick Steinke
Michael Brown	Richard Groves	Larry Moody	James Steward
Leo Christel	Clarence Hall	Norman Mosele	Jerry Stutzman, Sr.
Gordon Cole	Gene Hall	Ralph Mussehl	Ira Thumma
Sally Corner	William Hardebeck	Gerard O'Conner	John Tuohy
Bernard Corney	Allen Hayes	Allan Owens	James VanDyke
Fred Cudney	Ronald Hayward	Frederick Pepper	George Vanlann
Michael De Sota	Arnold Heath	Donald Perkins	Norman Viener
Richard Detkowski	David Heath	Eugene Peterson	Scott Viener
Robert Didion	Hubert Hintz	Duane Platner	Donald Vreeland
Michael Donaldson	Ethel Holt	Kenneth Policha	Daniel Walters
Thomas Eastman	Robert Holt	Gary Porter	James Weber
Raymond Fisher	Phil Horton	Daniel Richardson	Richard Wheaton
Norman Folson	Irene Hosking	Patricia Sanderson	Allen Wheeler
Gerald Garcia	Ralph Hulverson	Murray Sayre	Harold Yarrington

Once a SOLDIER



Always a SOLDIER

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