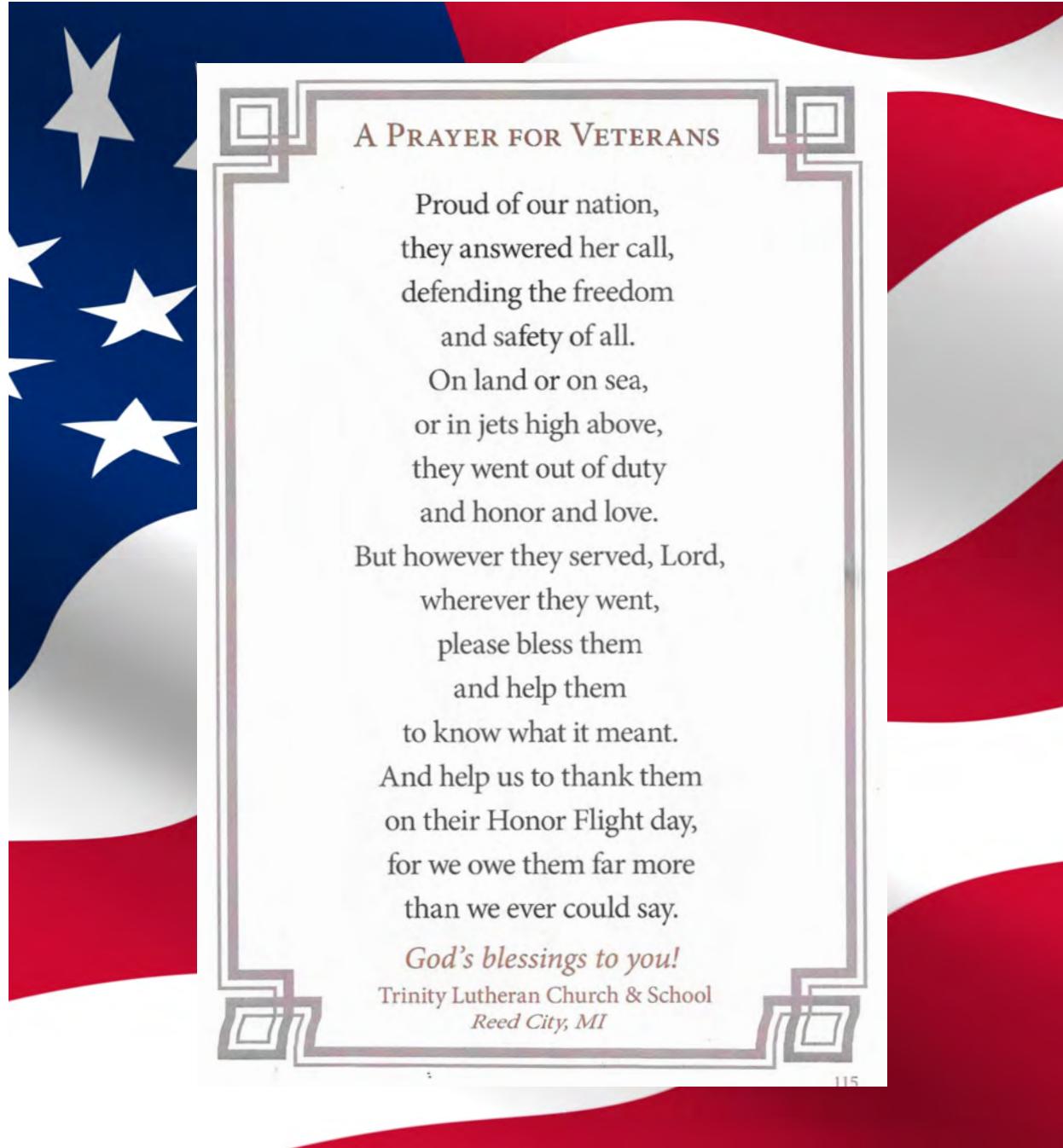


Mid-Michigan Honor Flight



Mission XVII – October 10-11, 2023



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 #17 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:

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Flight Support: Bethany Hamilton, Eric Morrow, Sean Wethington, Ashley Hall, Michael Mortensen, Jason Heilig, Caleb Jeffries, Heather Butts

Photographers: James Swoboda, John Russell, Patricia Moll

Design & printing of this book was done by Revolution Design and B & B Printing
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 #17 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: Cherry Capital Airport employees, Traverse City Country Club, Tee See Tees, Coins with Pride, B and 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 #17 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 Heartfelt thanks and appreciation for making Mission #17 the memory of a lifetime and a special event that none of us will ever forget.

Thank you to United States Coast Guard Commander Jonathan Arden for honoring Mission #17 with his presence and for helping us the memorialize Chief Machinist Mate Cecil Canfield who was lost at sea in World War II.

Media Credits:

We wish to thank the following media outlets for their coverage and support of Mission #17:

7 & 4 News: Trevor Robadeaux and Daniel Zivian

9 &10 News: Kelsey Meyers and Elliott Grandia



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



Warriors One and All

by Marvin Moorehouse (pictured)

They stand to answer duty's call

As all great patriots do

Valiant men and ladies too

Warriors One and All

No nation on earth could ever rule us

With warriors like these at call

En Masse they would answer our nation's call to arms

Warriors One and All

When great dictators from other worlds

Spread their poison politics

And great nations fall

We the brave and free hold the line.

Warriors One and All

Should a great crisis ever befall us

All VFW's would rally to the call

We are founded on patriotism

Warriors One and All

To our veterans ...

... we thank you for your service.





Army. Vietnam War. December 1967 to December 1969. Specialist 5th Class. Support for 1st Infantry Division, 1st Brigade 2nd Infantry. Traveled about 3 corp setting up temporary fire bases with support groups following 1st infantry ½, call sign Dracula. Nearly over-run in a couple. One in particular happened on May 11, 1969. Flew supply missions to ground pounding groups in the field. Stood next to at least 2 people wounded in firefights. Very fortunate to have been spared. Good Conduct Medal.





Navy. Korean War. June 18, 1951 to June 18, 1954. Navy Seabee, carpenter. Good Conduct Medal.





Army. Vietnam War. May 1968 to April 1970. E-5. EOD Specialist. Waiting for a chopper on helicopter pad when rocket attack occurred. Hid under 2-1/2 ton for cover. Truck had a bed full of H.E. National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal.

Army. Vietnam War. May 1968 to May 1970. E4. Radioman - 71st Air Cav B Troop. R&R in the Philippines when Armstrong landed on the moon. We were treated like royalty and never paid for anything. Went to Camron Bay right out of the field and when walking to the PX, I passed a 2nd Lieutenant, and I did not salute him. He hollered at me to stop and said, "I am a 2nd Lieutenant and deserve to be saluted." I was carrying my weapon and ammo packs and told him, "Where I just came from, if I saluted you, you'd be dead." I walked away and he said nothing.





Navy. World War II.
October 13, 1944 to July 13, 1946. Hospital Apprentice 2/C – HA 2/C. Caring for returning Navy and Marine Corps personnel suffering primarily from tuberculosis plus other disabilities. Going where I was sent and doing what I was told.



Air Force. Vietnam War. May 20, 1970 to August 1, 1991.
T Sgt. Postal – served in country 1970-1971.





Army. Vietnam War. April 1, 1968 to December 8, 1971. E-5. Transporting truck parts. National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, Expert M-14, Expert M-16.

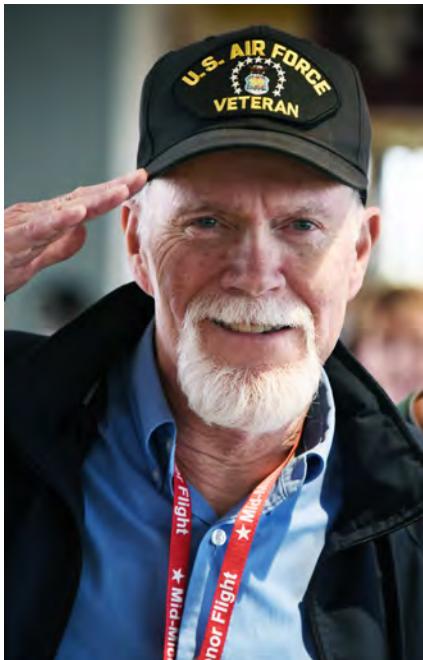




Army. Vietnam War.
August 1965 to 1967. E-4.
Communications.







Army. Vietnam War. September 4, 1968 to September 4, 1970. E5. C.R.I.P.
Platoon (combined recon intel platoon). Leaving to come home.





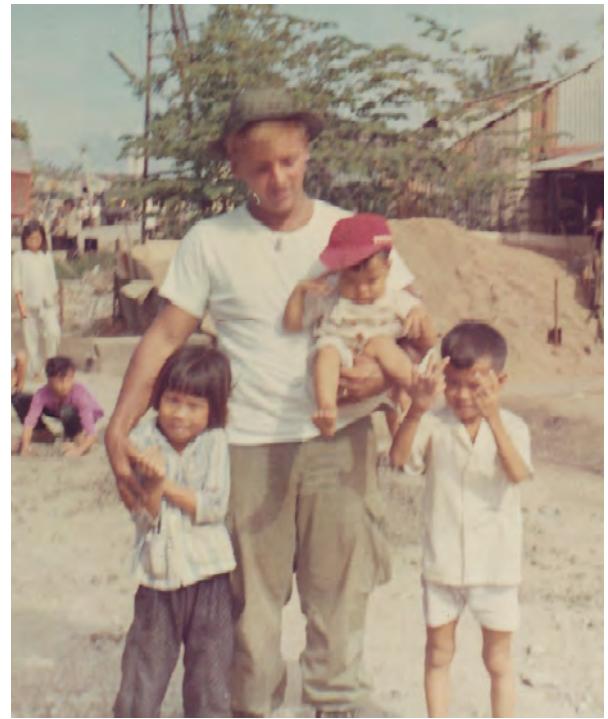
Navy. World War II. December 9, 1948 to December 9, 1949 – Active, December 9, 1949 to 1955 – Inactive Reserve. AA. Aircraft Handling Crew Leader moving various aircraft between hanger deck and flight deck.





Army. Vietnam War. September 20, 1966 to September 20, 1968. E4. Support for 155 mm and 8 inch artillery. Tet Offensive 1968.





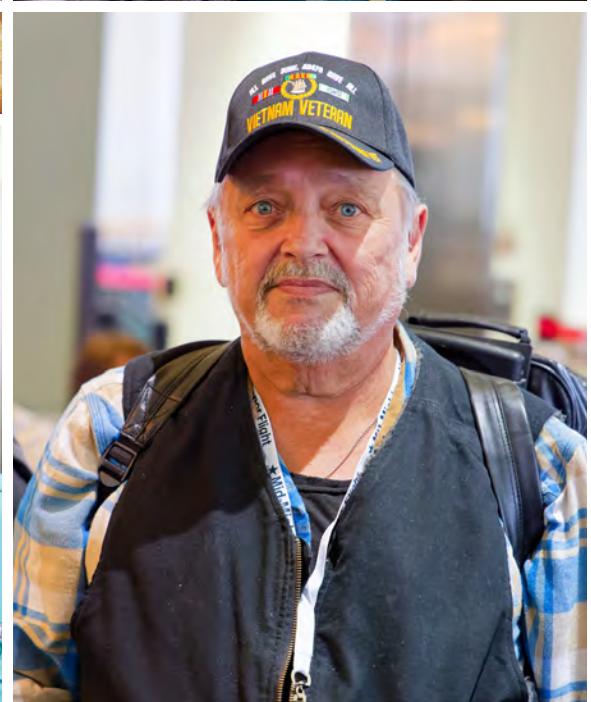


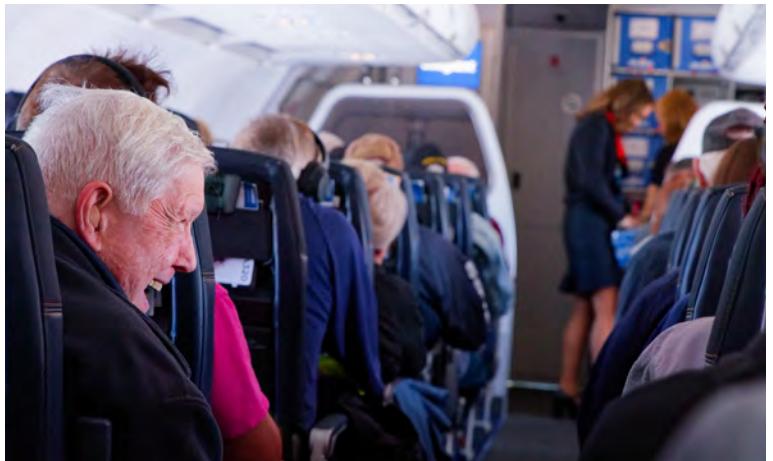
Army. Vietnam War. November 1966 to July 1969. E-5. 61B30 Watercraft Operator. Pulled a barge on the Mekong River with 105 Artillery. To give mobile support to ground troops movements in the Mekong Delta.





Air Force. Vietnam War.



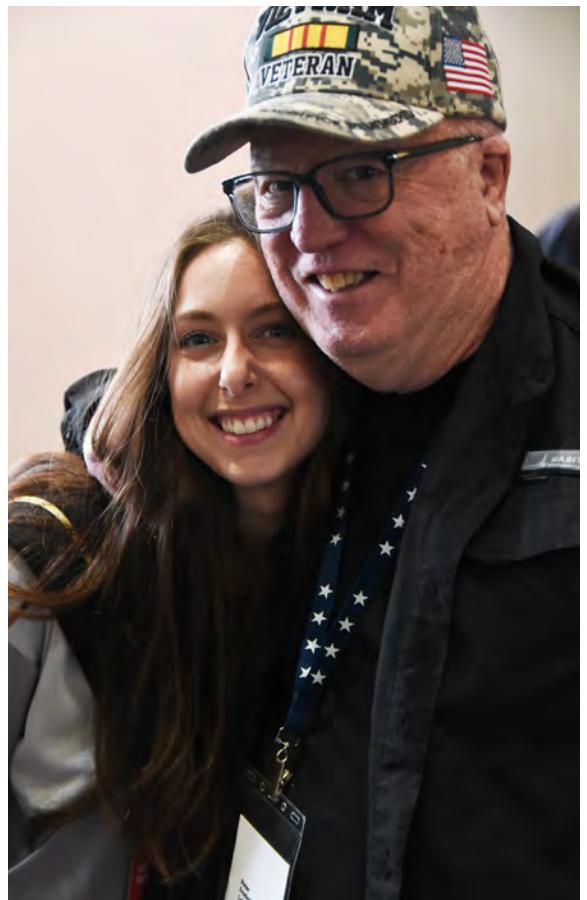


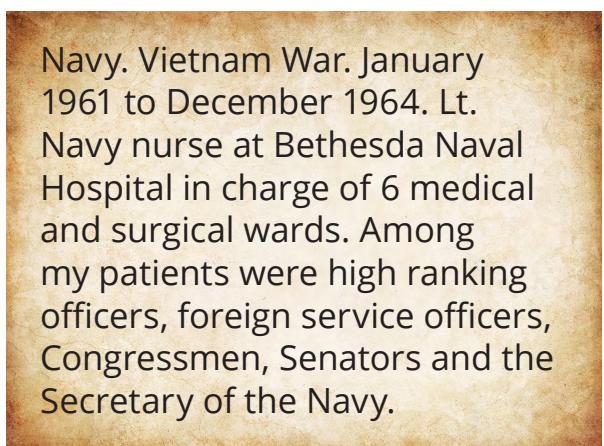
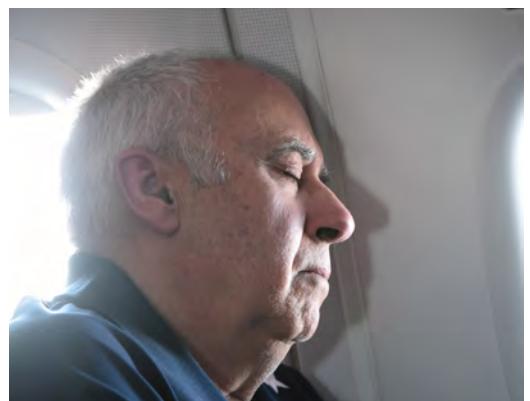
Army. Vietnam War. June.
Aircraft Maintenance.





Army. Korean War.
September 26, 1951 to
September 25, 1954. Radio
Traffic Analysis, Sergeant.



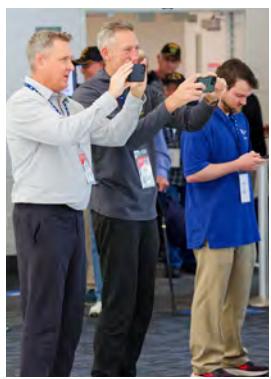




USMC. Vietnam War.
October 25, 1967 to
October 22, 1971. E5
Sergeant. Aviation
Ordnance – assigned
to VMGR-152, Da Nang,
Dropping flares to assist
troops in contact and
Medivac operations.
Hopped a flight going to
Hong Kong. Had lunch of
BLT and made my first
and only phone call home
from the airport. First time
speaking to my wife in 6+
months.



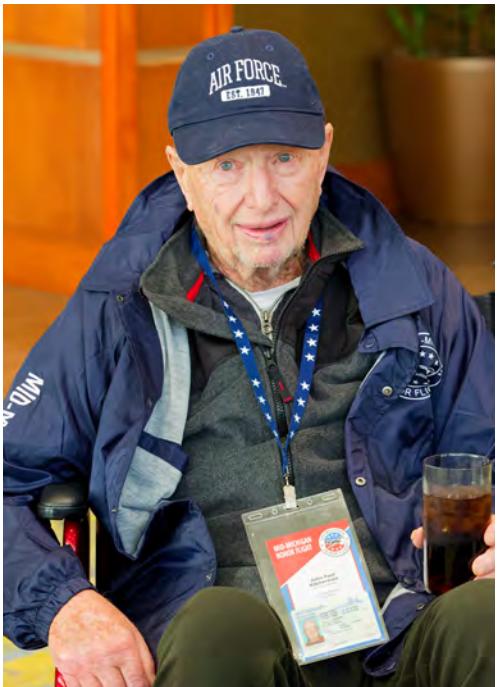
Army. February 12, 1969 to February 11, 1971. Spec. 4, Infantry, MOS - mortars. National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Sharpshooter Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, 2 Bronze Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/ 1960 Device.





Navy. Vietnam War. October 1966 to July 1970. MM3 CLASS (E4), Machinist Mate, work in engine room and generator room. On way home to get married in January 1968, USS Pueblo was by North Korea. The ship I was on (USS Coral Sea CVA 43) was sent to the coast off North Korea for a while. Had to reschedule our wedding.

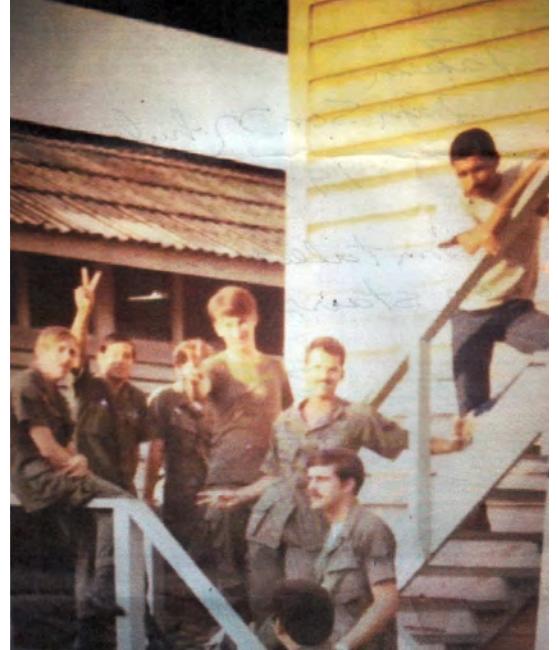




Navy. World War II. 1944 to 1946. Cleaning, serving food, administrative duties. Met a friend who became her best friend for 70 years. Several medals from the service.



Army / Air Force. Vietnam War. 1969 to 1971, 1988 to 2010. Sgt E-5 Army, Tech Sgt E-6 Air Force. Armor recon, heavy equipment / firefighter. I was diverted from Vietnam to Camp Hunter Leggit to a Combat Development Experimentation Command (C.D. E.C.) where we engaged in various missions and tactics.

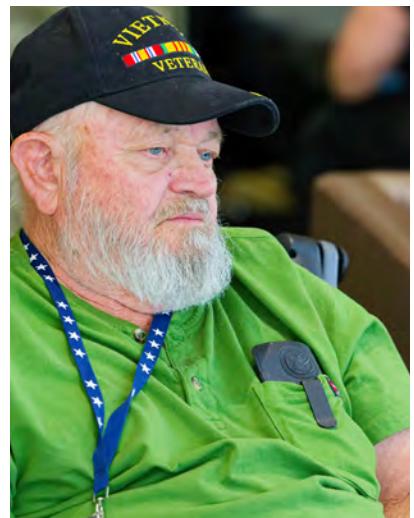
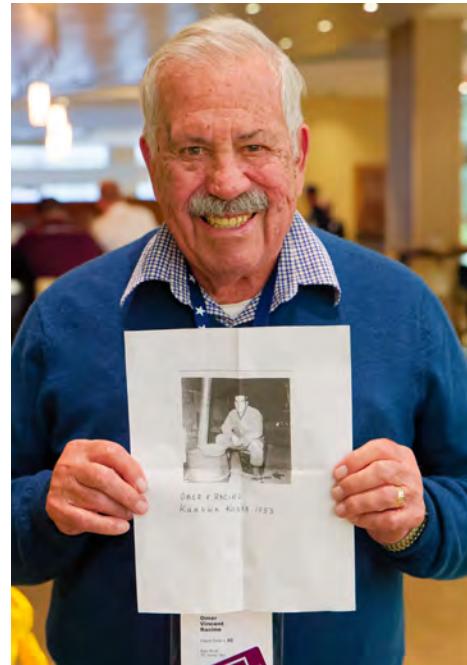




Army. Vietnam War.
February 1970 to October
1971. SP/4. Infantry.



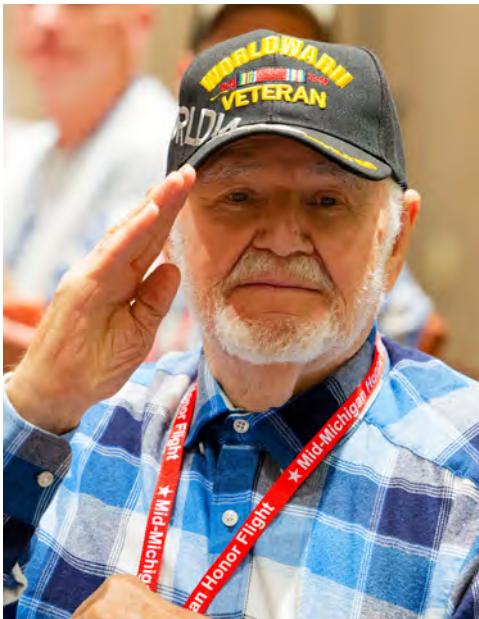
Navy. Korean and Vietnam wars. September 9, 1953 to September 25, 1975. E8 Senior Chief. Designated aircraft mechanic, flight examiner, load master, various administrative jobs, avia... master chief of the command on the last 2 duty assignments. Aboard the USS Edisto in the Antarctica 11/57-6/58. ON a mission to Germany we threw the prop off of #3 engine, as the flight engineer involved, we developed to the game plan and at the point of notification, I feathered the #4 engine throwing the prop off. To my knowledge, no other crew had been able to do that. They had to land in Porto, Portugal, I have the newspaper article but need it translated. I set up a training program for future flight engineers. We were the second flight into Vietnam after the war started, still a flight engineer at that time. Flew in and out of Vietnam for 6 years, started in a C118 for 2 years, flying troops and support. Promoted to master the 3rd year flying in a C130, transport machinery, troops, material and bringing out bodies. March 1967 started Aviation Safety for Helicopter Squadron HT-8 and HT-18. Transferred to HM12 helicopter mine sweeping. We began sweeping in Haiphong Harbor Vietnam. Mine sweeping in the Suez Canal in 1974 and part of 1975.





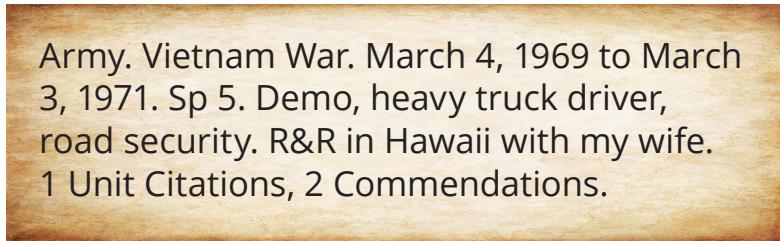
Marines. Vietnam War. 1969, 1970, released in 1971. Cap Marine. Corporal. Spent ten days in Hong Kong. Was happy to get home.





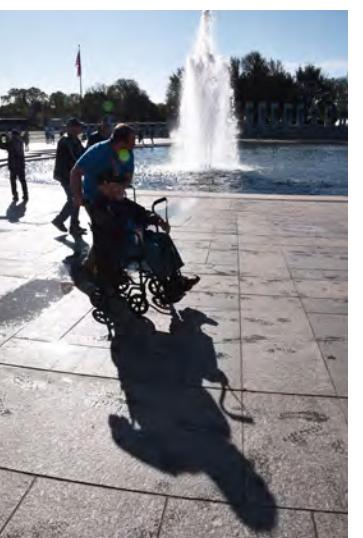
Air Force. Korean War. 1951 to 1955. Air Force Radar Mechanic Sergeant. Worked on the Dewey Line.







Army. Korean War. Corporeal. September 1952 to September 1955. 91st MP Battalion Motor Pool Mechanic.









Navy. Vietnam. Navy March 1965, August 1968, AMH 3. Miramar Cal VF 121, Cubi Pt Pi aircraft maintenance, 25 months.





Army. Vietnam War. May 21, 1969 to November 23, 1970. SP4. R&R – went to Australia. National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star, Army Commendation, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, RVN Campaign Medal.



Air Force. Vietnam War. January 6, 1972 to January 6, 1976. Sgt. Aerospace ground equipment repair. Stationed 2 years Elmendorf AFB Alaska, 2 years Castle AFB California. National Defense Service Medal, AFOUA, AFGCM.





Army. Vietnam War. Sp4-E4. Cook, truck driver. National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal.





Army. Vietnam War. May 28, 1970 to March 11, 1972. Sgt. Infantry Squad Leader. RTO Point Man. My daughter was born while I was in Vietnam. Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Stars, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device.



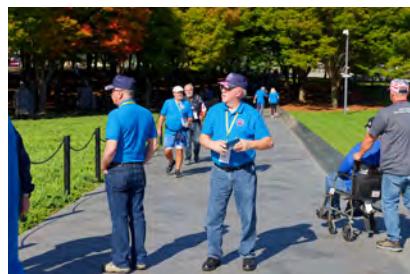


USAF & ANG. Vietnam War. 1969 to 1981. Captain. On-scene commander for search & rescue missions. Flew 198 combat missions in the OV-10 Bronco. On-scene commander for the BAT 21B Rescue (3 books and a movie were produced about this rescue). Received one of DFC's for that rescue.





USMC. Vietnam War. Sgt. September 1966 to December 1969. 9th Marine Scout Sniper May 1967 to June 1968, Honor Guard Washington DC 1968 to 1969 at 8th & I. Enlisted as a Canadian, 1966, Vietnam spent most of my tour Con Thien and Gio Linh. Citations, Presidential Unit Citations, Expert rifle award, while in Washington DC guarded President Nixon's inauguration, special detail for Presidential Eisenhower funeral.



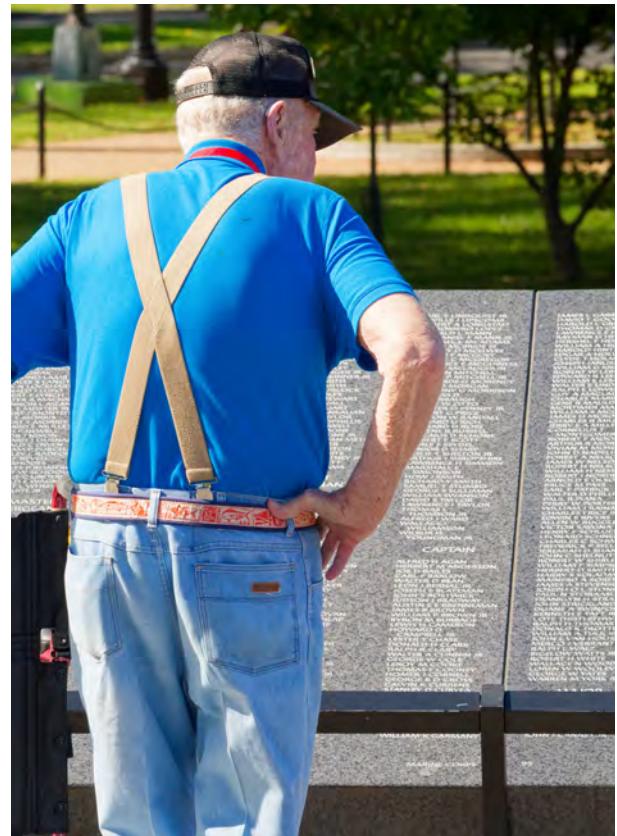




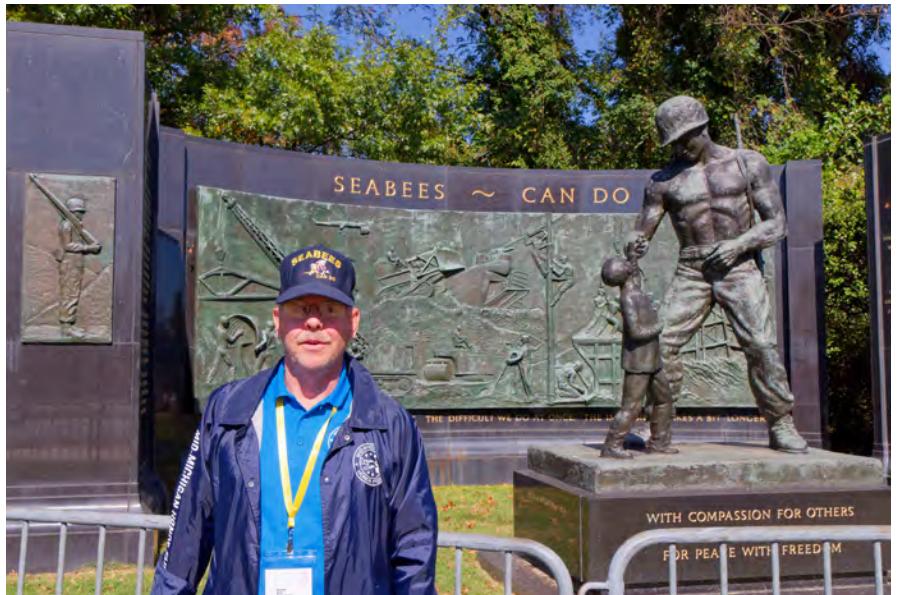


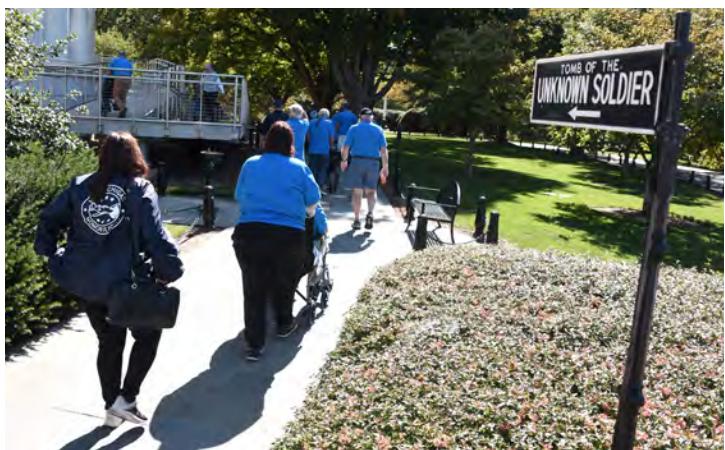
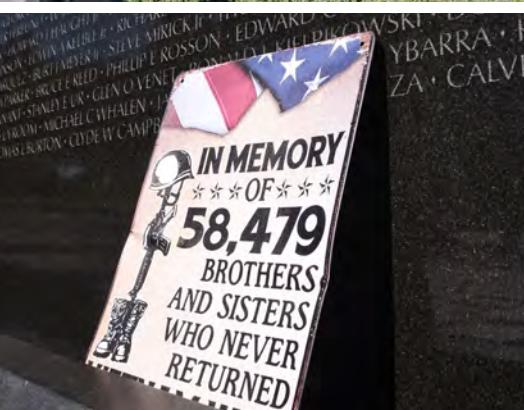
Army. Vietnam War. July 25, 1968 to July 15, 1970. SP5. Cook.





Army. Vietnam War. October 1969 to August 1971. Sgt. Infantry. Sleeping outside.

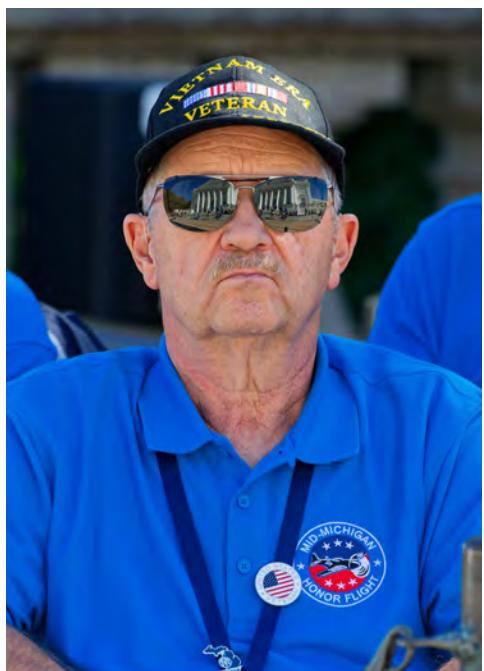




Army. Korean War. September 1957 to 1959. Clerk typist for Sam Houston 4th Army HOQ San Antonio Texas. Peace time.

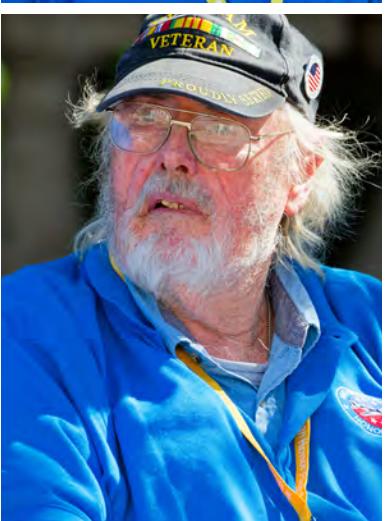


Army. Vietnam
War. April 1958
to March 1961.
Sp4-E4.



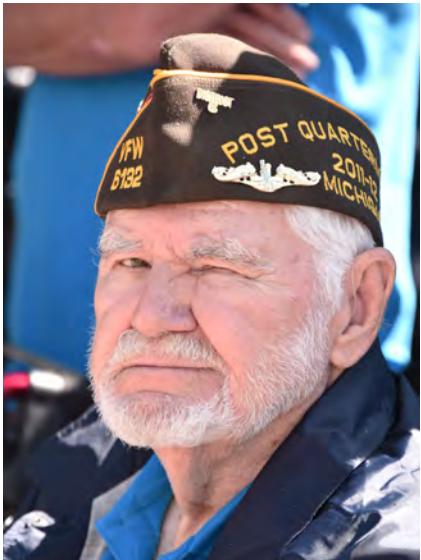
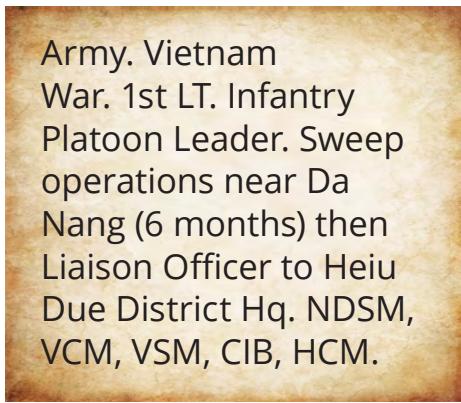


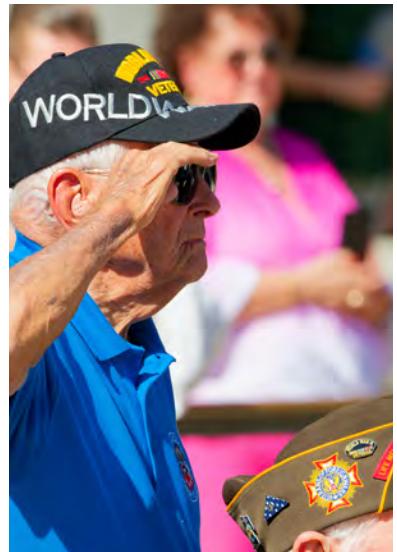
Army. Vietnam War.
September 14, 1966 to
September 13, 1968. Sp4,
E-4. Ammunition Storage
(148th Ord. Co.), Dong
Tam. 148th Ord. Co.
was the most decorated
ammunition company in
Vietnam in 1967-1968.





Army. Vietnam War.
February 1972 to
November 2007. Master
Sergeant. Dental
Assistant / Tech.





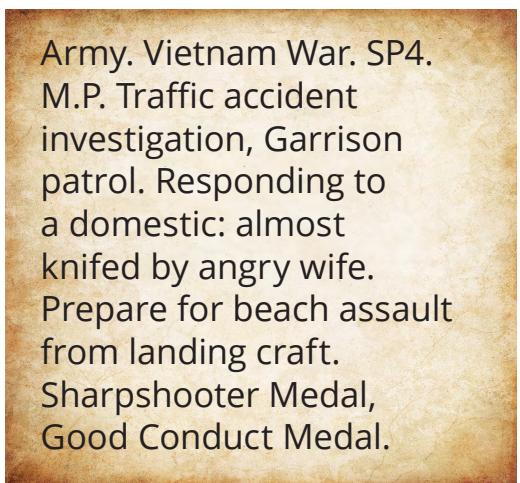


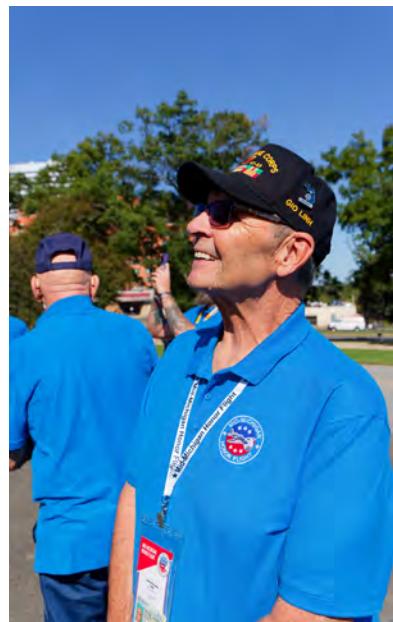
Air Force. Vietnam War.
October 1965 to October
1969. Sgt. Support.





Army. Korean War.
Infantry – Artillery. Head grazed by bullet – rolled
10 times down mountain in Army truck. Korean
Service Medal w/ 3
Bronze Campaign Stars,
UN Service Medal.

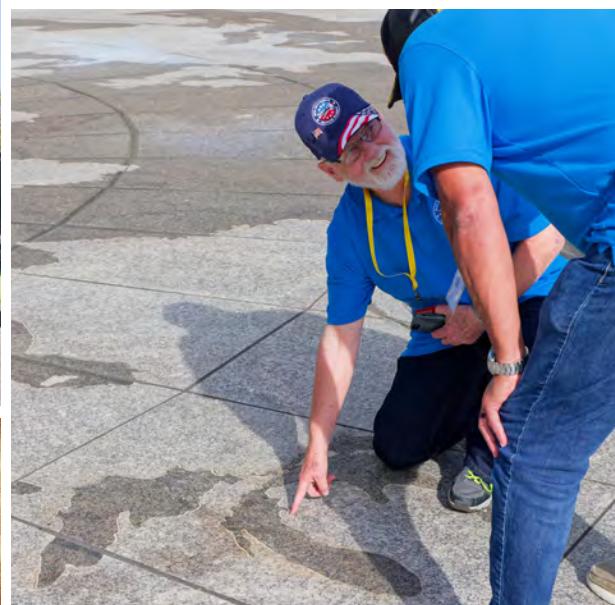
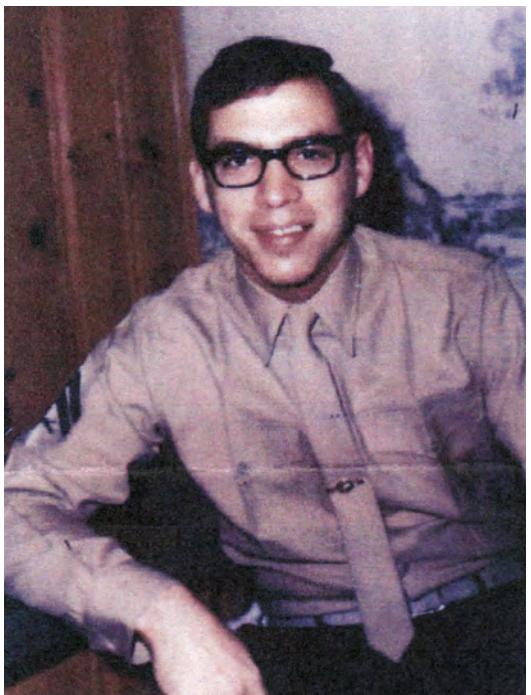




Army. Vietnam War. 1966 to 1968.
SP4. Field Recovery Mechanic.

Army. Vietnam
War. July 20, 1966
to July 1968. E-4.
Radio Relay Carrier
Attendant Specialist,
UHF Radios
31M20. Being TDY
with a Korean
Infantry Battalion
Headquarters
Unit, serving
them with long
distance telephone
communications,
inland from
DaTrang.

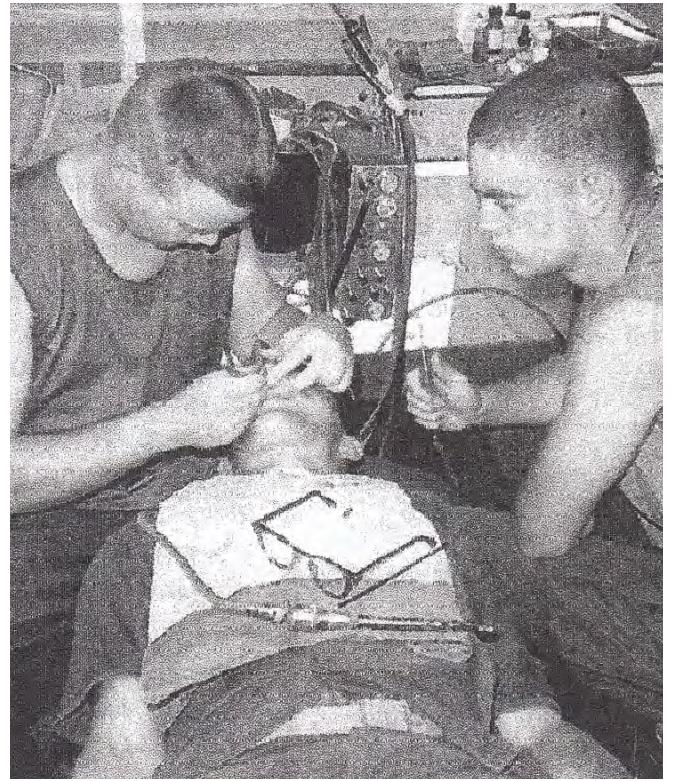




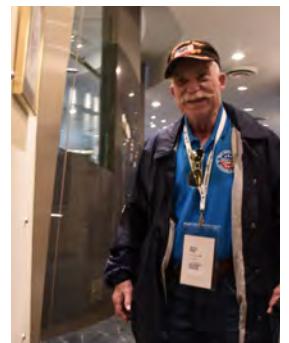
Air Force. Vietnam War. October 1968
to November 1988. S/SGT. Jet Engine
Mechanic/Scheduler.



Army. Vietnam War.
July 3, 1969 to January
17, 1972. Sp5 E-5.
Combat Engineer
- mine sweeping
- building bridges.
Army Commendation
Medal – December
1, 1969 to March 5,
1970, Company D 1st
Engineer Battalion,
1st Infantry Division.



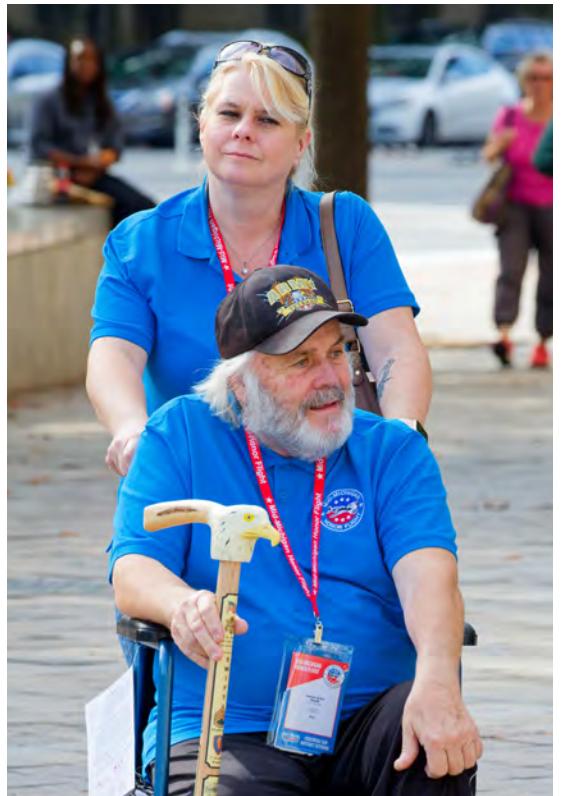
Army. Vietnam War. 1967-1970, 1991-2009. Staff Sergeant. Helicopter Crew Chief Gunner, Cobras, Heyes and Blackhawk. Served in Vietnam until medivaced due to shrapnel injury. Was at Woodstock in 1969 in support of West Point Cadets and did support of the festival sick and injury. Reenlisted in 1991 for Desert Storm, deployed to Bosnia in 2001-2002 and again in 2005-2005, Kosovo from 2006-2007 and to Iraq in 2008-2009. Retired in 2010 due to age and ETS.





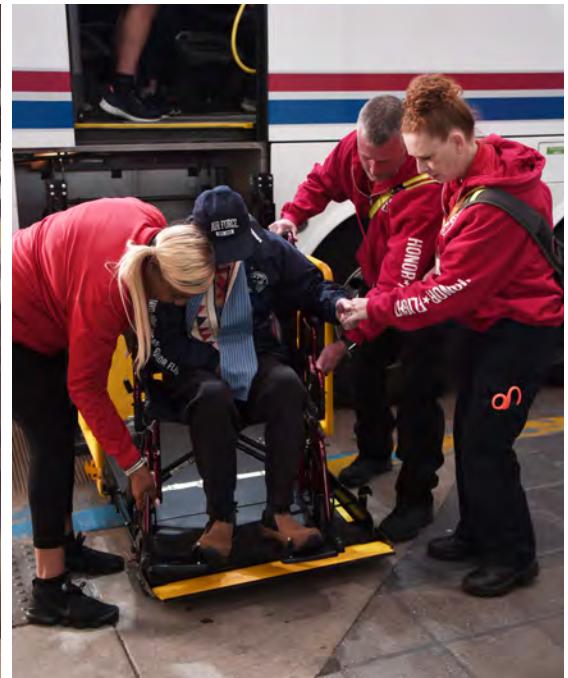
Navy. Vietnam War. November 4, 1969 to October 26, 1973. SK2. CB unit work to ship back to US, office work, other assigned general duties as needed. Assisted with donations for children's orphanage.





Army. Vietnam War. January 3, 1966 to December 16, 1967. SP4 E4. I was on 81mm mortar man. The mortar platoon would support our infantry. Platoons with fire support missions, whenever a team needed us. 25th Infantry Cu Chi Vietnam July 1966-July 1967.



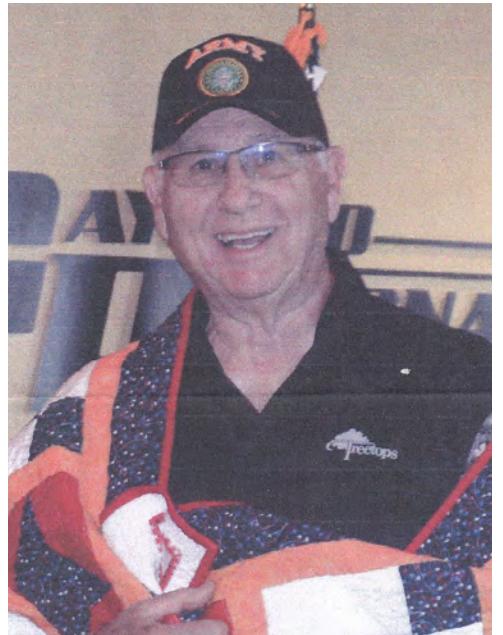


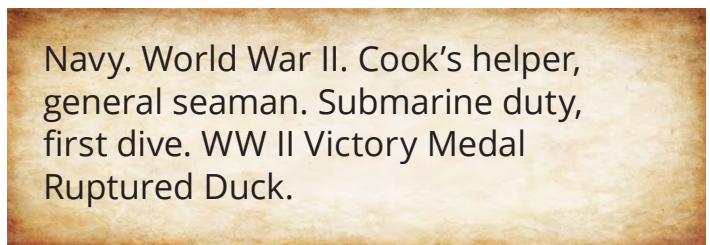
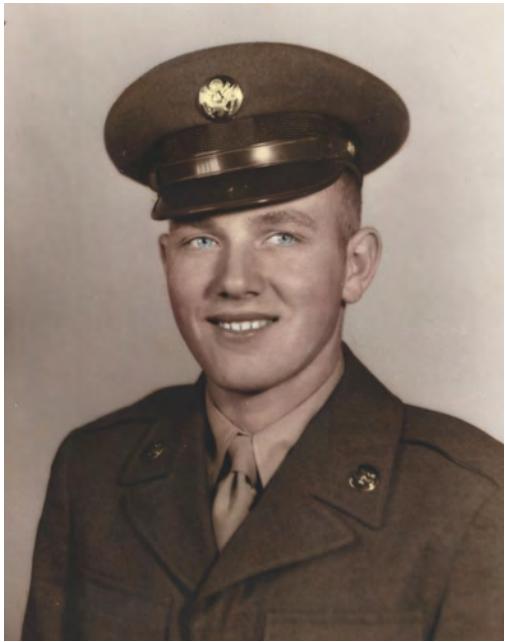
Marines. Vietnam War.
1966 to 1972. E-4. Ran heavy equipment on patrols.

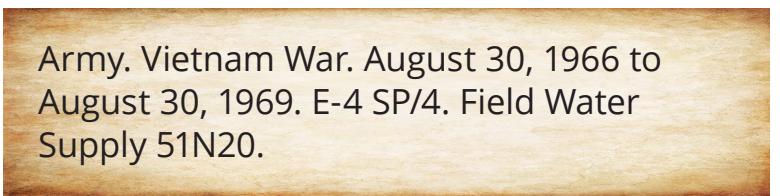




Air Force. Vietnam War. January 12, 1971 to April 30, 1974. E-4. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Specialist. Funeral details, people returning from Vietnam, working on morgue cooling units with deceased soldiers inside. Most interesting and sad experience was of the funeral details we had to perform – very moving – you never get over it. When you have to work on morgue cooling units, you never forget. This may not be interesting, but it is what I remember the most.



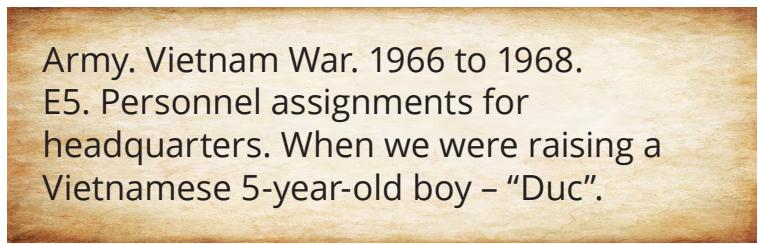






Army. Vietnam War. July 19, 1967 to June 11, 1969.
Sgt E-5. Rifleman. Saw Bob Hope Show. Tet Offensive.





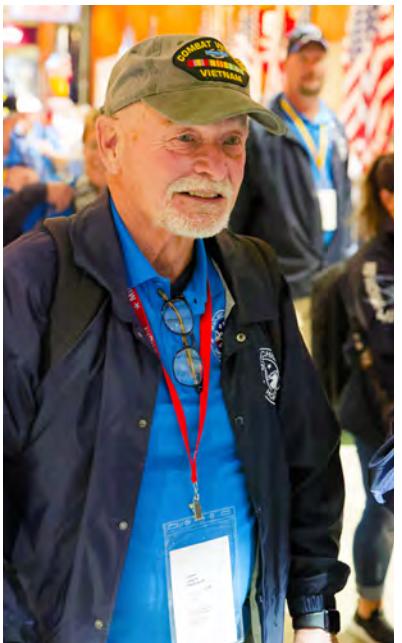


Army. Vietnam War. March 1968 to November 11, 1971. Sergeant 173rd Airborne. I was with the 173rd Airborne in the II Core (Central Highlands), a very elite brigade for 18 months. Drew jump pay - \$50 per month - and was on standby to jump at any time. I was a good marksman, and my captain knew it. Whenever we came across someone that thought they were a good shoot, my captain would make a cash bet that I could out-shoot them. (He never lost!) Had 26 airborne jumps, received combat infantry badge, jump wings, Bronze Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.





Army. Vietnam War. August 17, 1967 to April 14, 1969. E-4. US 54969976. MACV intelligence, document control, etc. Dealing with classified information and all the people I dealt with.



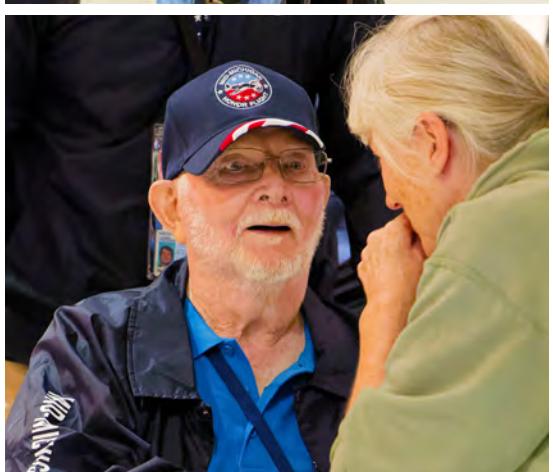


Navy. Vietnam War. November 1, 1971, to November 30, 1991. Chief (E7). F4 Plane Captain with VF-154 aboard USS Ranger (CVA 61). Had five-hundred-pound bomb drop off port wing of F-4 during launch. Another aircraft's exhaust was blowing on the propeller of the bomb until someone ran over and stopped the propeller and removed the fuse. National Defense (2nd Award) Vietnam Service, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Expert Pistol Shot Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Good Conduct (5), Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia, Navy Achievement.

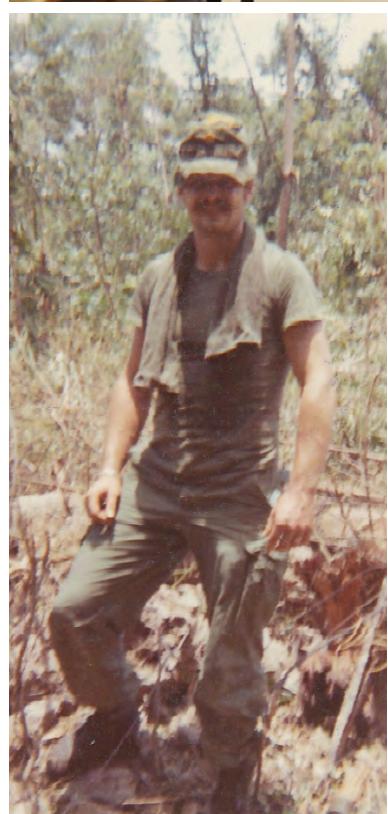
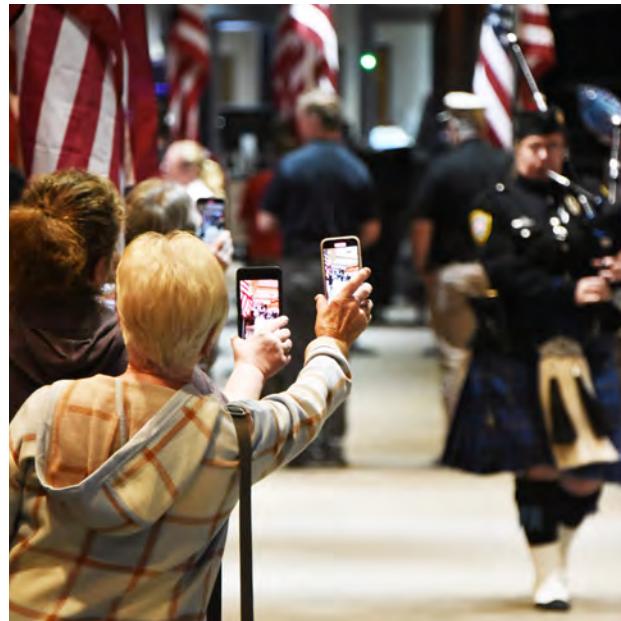




Army. Korean and Vietnam wars. February 12, 1958 to February 13, 1961. Heavy equipment mechanic, diesel repair. E4. Sharpshooter. Served as diesel repair on heavy equipment while in Korea on the DMZ for 13 months.



Navy. Vietnam War. June 30, 1966 to June 21, 1968. Lieutenant Commander, Dental Corps VSNR, Dental care for Navy and Marines and Army. Treated Vietnam natives for dental problems on what was called MedCap in Heu and another village near Camp Evans. I was assigned to Marine Base Camp Pendleton in California and the 3rd Marine Division 3rd Dental Company in Vietnam. Served at 5 dental clinics in Vietnam. National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart Vietnam Service medal, Presidential Unit Citation Medal, United States Marine Corps Certificate of Commendation, the Commanding General 3rd Marine Division.



Army. Korean War. October 17, 1952 to August 18, 1954.
USA Artillery, Corporal.
Korean Service Ribbon, 2
Bronze Stars, United Nations
Service Medal, National
Defense Medal.

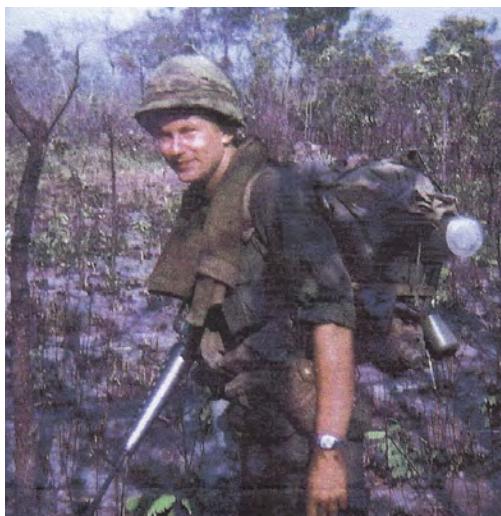




Marines. Vietnam War. August 1958 to July 1961.
106 Anti-Tank Section Leader.

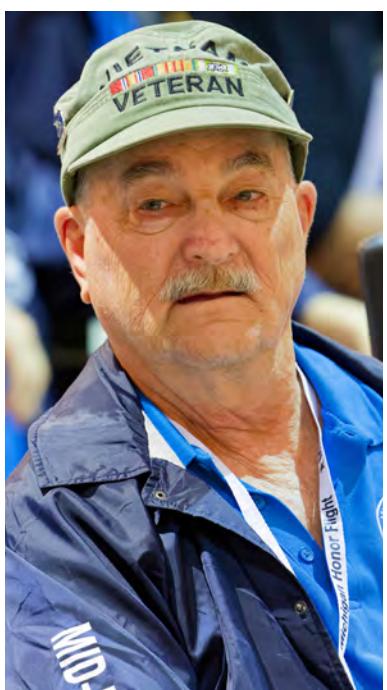
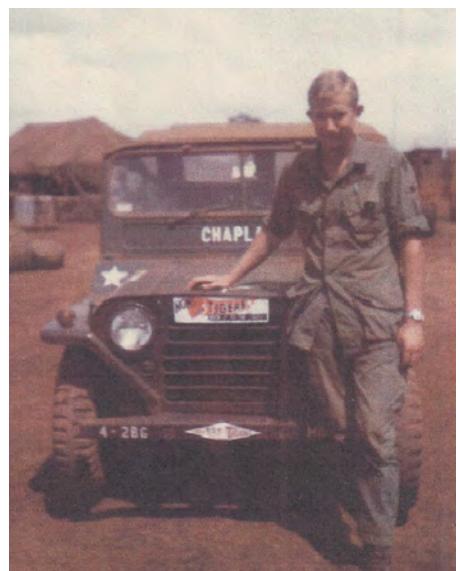


Air Force. Vietnam War.
January 22, 1970 to March
23, 1972 and February
1, 1974 to April 17, 1975.
E-4 Sgt. Munitions
maintenance, inspection
and storage.





Army. Vietnam War. July 15, 1966 to July 14, 1969. Sgt E-5. Infantry – Squad Leader. Got to swim with sharks.





Army. Was in Korea and Vietnam 1953-1956-1967-1975-1996. Staff Sergeant. Supply Sergeant 76 Mos. Victor & Xray, Driver of a 10,000 forklift. Being a driver and copilot with night vision glasses going across desert at 45 mi per hour into Iraq on February 23, 1991. A PM, Service Ribbon, M16-MKM Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star, 3 Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, SW Asia, (OSSVC RBN) (1 ARC OT) (3)MI-OUS-RBN.





Army. Vietnam War. December 13, 1966 to December 12, 1969. SP/4. Photography – filing. Survived Tet, 1968. Photography – combat, body counts, documents. Helped reestablished communications from Phu Bai between various unit.



IN MEMORY OF

CECIL S. CANFIELD

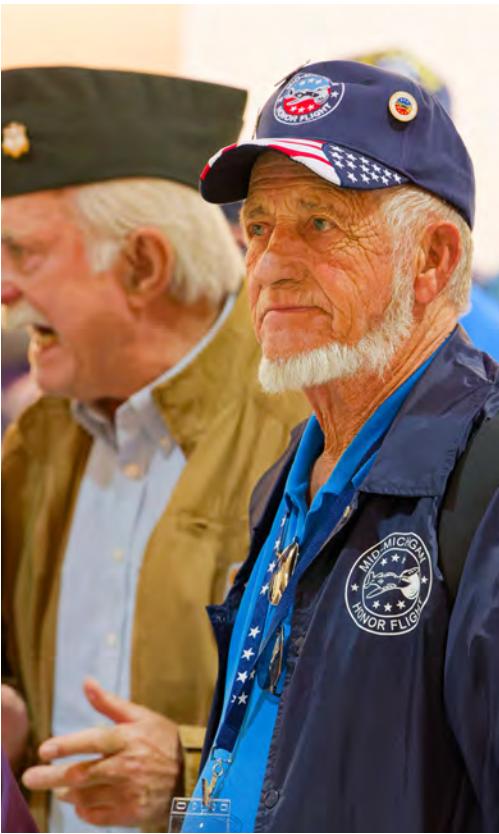
RANK
CHIEF MACHINIST'S MATE, U.S. COAST GUARD

UNIT

DATE OF DEATH
SEPTEMBER 10, 1943
COMMORATED IN PERPETUITY AT
EAST COAST MEMORIAL
NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES

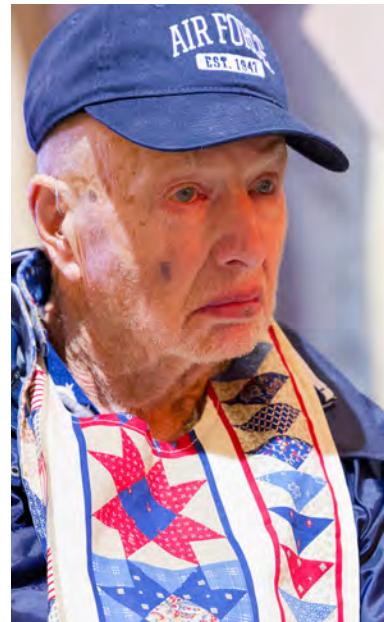


“Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”
— GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING



Army. Vietnam War. June 1961 to June 1964. 111 Infantry platoon Sgt. Rank Sgt. E-5. I was in Germany when President JFK was assassinated. Our unit was deployed to the 5 K zone on the communist Czech border for quite a while. I was an expert rifleman.









Army. Vietnam War. 1963 to 1972. Captain, US Army Tank Unit Commander, basic combat training officer, 3rd Army, served as a Gold Star son – soul survivor, father killed in WW II. Fort Knox & Fort Bragg. National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal (usual awards).



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."

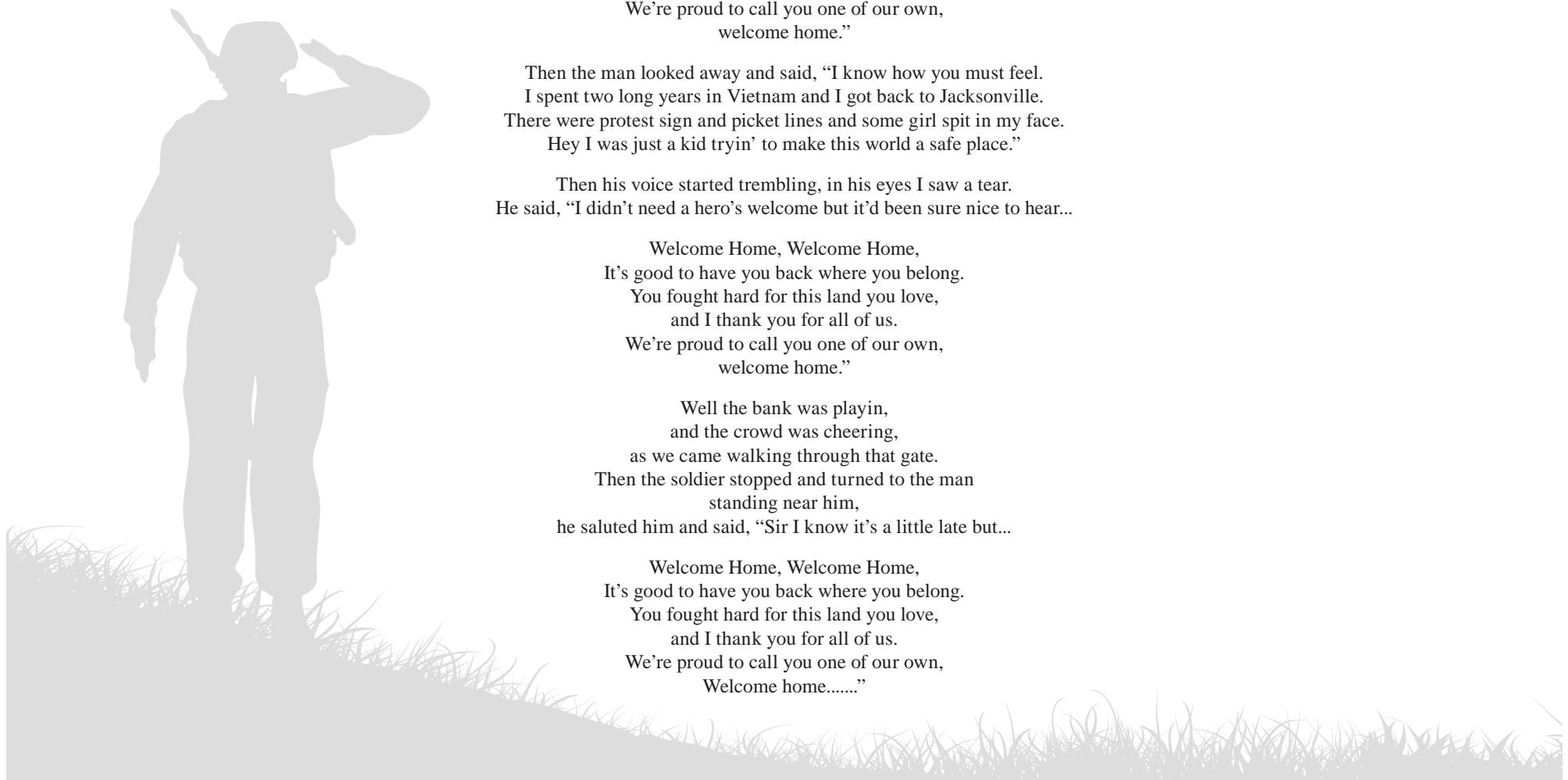
Then the man looked away and said, "I know how you must feel.
I spent two long years in Vietnam and I got back to Jacksonville.
There were protest sign and picket lines and some girl spit in my face.
Hey I was just a kid tryin' to make this world a safe place."

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....."



OCTOBER 10-11, 2023 FLIGHT

Richard Anderson	John Dyksterhouse	John Lallo	Robert Skinner
Marsden Antcliff	Arthur Ferguson	Gordon Laser	Richard Suchodolski
William Bain	Daniel Fitzgerald	Walter Loney	Louis Swift
Bruce Barger	David Gates	Raymond March	James Trnka
Jerry Beattie	William Goff	John McElduff	John Van Etten III
Jerry Benson	Alan Gregory	Robert Morrison	Richard VanLuven
Craig Bentley	Richard Groves	Sidney Neiswander	Rudolfo Venegas
Larry Bergen	Chester Guild	Carl Ockert	Clifford Wagner
John Bevier	Glenn Head	Phillip Odren	Richard Wagner
Sterling Boldrey Jr.	Alvin Helms Jr.	Bruce Olsen	Barry Wainman
Walter Braman	Danny Hickman	Harry Olson	Paul Waterstradt
James Calkins	Timothy Higley	John Pacola	Joel Weberman
Carl Clark	Alvin Hudson	Michael Patterson	Robert Welch
Barry Cook	Richard Johnson	Wilfred Powell	Donald Wilton
Kenneth Cook	John Kilcherman	Lawrence Pudvay	Carl Woods
Norman Cook	Douglas Klumpp	Omer Racine	Richard Zuidema
Bernard Derks	Dennis Kuznicki	Michael Reed	
Roger Dolland	Peter LaBlance	Russell Ross	

Once a SOLDIER



Always a SOLDIER

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