

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight



Mission XXIII - September 16-17, 2025



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 #23 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"

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Counselor: Lisa Grenon

Photographers: James Swoboda, Justina Hlavka

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*

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 #23 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.

The words "Thank You" never seems to be a strong enough sentiment for the sacrifice, dedication, loss, hardships, pain, and suffering that our Veterans have been forced to endure throughout the years. We strive to make an impact by providing a first-class experience for our Veteran Honorees and their Guardians. It is our hope that everyone that was able to attend Mission #23 had such an experience.

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: Bishop Airport employees, the Meijer Family Foundation, 5 Star Screen Printing Plus, Coins with Pride, B and B Printing, Project Hero Hugs, the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Holes 4 Heavens Heroes, Meijer, Enbridge Energy, and all of our other 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.



We would like to extend a huge thank you to TC Energy for supporting Mid-Michigan Honor Flight's mission, by covering the cost of this photo album, and for their continued support of our nation's Veterans. TC Energy has graciously provided us with the funding for this album and the album for Mission #24. From the bottom of our hearts, **THANK YOU TC ENERGY!**



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.

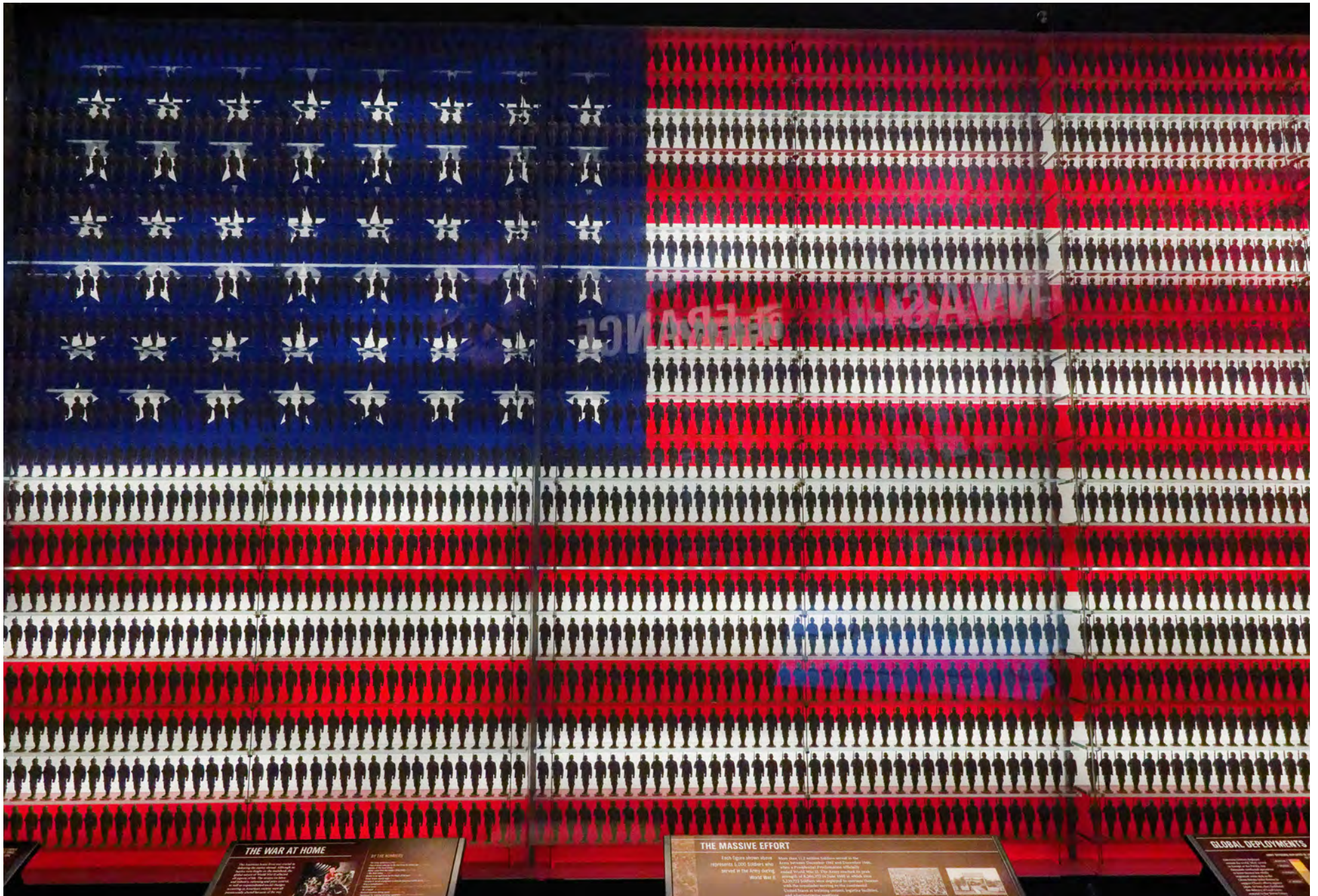
Tootsies From The Sky

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*



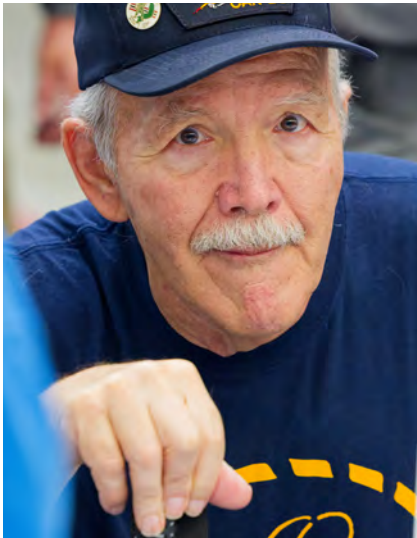
To our veterans ... we thank you for your service.



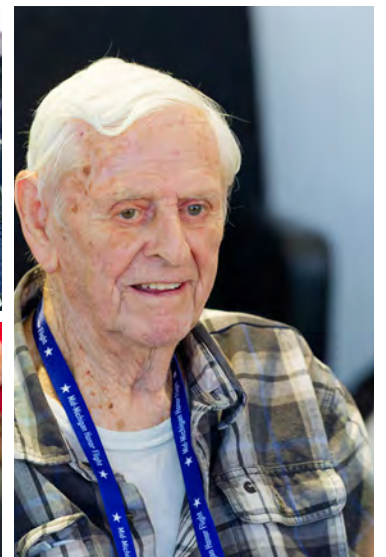


Marines. Vietnam. E-4 Corporal. March 1962 – June 1966. Milling Tennessee Avionics, New River Jacksonville NC Helicopter HMM265 First unit to get CH46, then transferred to Hawaii. March 1965 orders for Vietnam. Two MOS's Flew 47 Combat Missions. Awarded two Air medals and Combat wings. Added 160 days to his enlistment to train airmen to work on aircraft.





Army. Vietnam. 1967 – 1969. Bronze star, from battle. One of three brothers in the war. All served in succession. Never there at the same time.



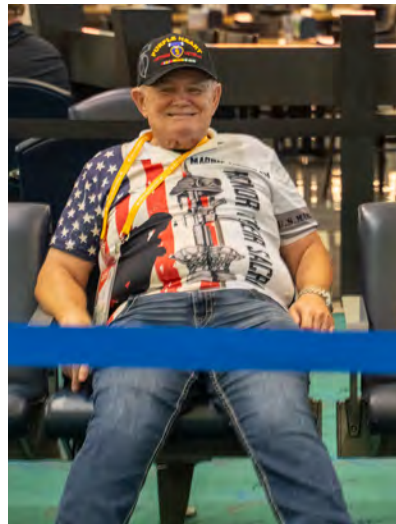


Army. Vietnam. 1969 – 2003. E7 SFC. I did everything but was mostly artillery. I was 3 months in Vietnam. After I came back from Vietnam I went to the National Guard with a total of 28 years total service. Two years active & 26 years guards. Vietnam Campaign Medal.

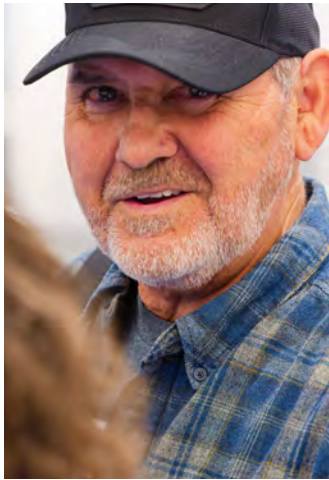


Army. Korea. November 18, 1952 - 1954. E4. I drove tanks in Korea. I was in the 31st. Tank, 7th Division. National Defense Medal, Good Conduct.





Air Force, Army. Vietnam. Air Force 1966-1970. 3 stripes... Sergeant. Crash rescue. Airmen's medal...from a crash. Missile dislodge and blew up the plane. F4 crashed right in front of them. Blown 10 feet through the air. Treated burns. But survived. Was going home in just 5 days. Was going to get married and and still is!

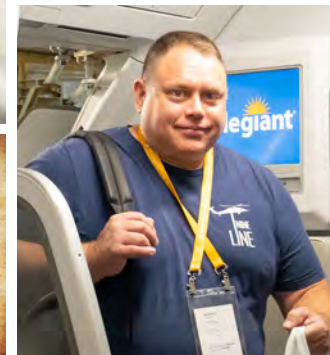


Navy. Vietnam. 1966-1968. E5 PO-2. I was part of an experimental program. I entered to be a Corpsman. Once I passed everything. I was then trained in counter insurgency warfare. (With the Navy Seals relatively new program. The Seals in Vietnam were the Green Beret equivalent.) The LT. made me an instant PO, (E-4). I had three years experience in plumbing, getting ready plumbing test-but once you at this place in the Navy-I had a SeeBee rating. I spent 9 months as a River Rat. After that I was sent up to I-Corp. That's where I served with the Navy SeeBees. When you came home I was part of the NMCB. Vietnam Campaign Medal & received a Unit River Patrol Citation from the Delta. (I was with the PBR's.)





Air Force. Vietnam.
SGT. Alaska, Repaired
Teletype machine.
HonorableDischarge.

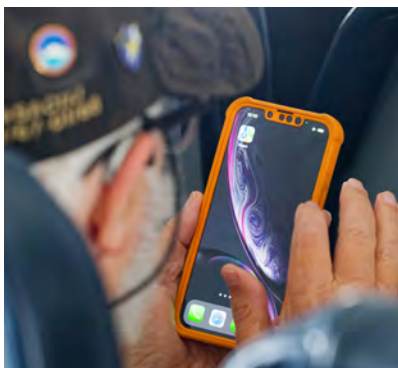


Army. Vietnam. June 22,
1970 – 76. E5. NDSM -SPS
M-14 & M-16 AFEM Korea
USARPAC.



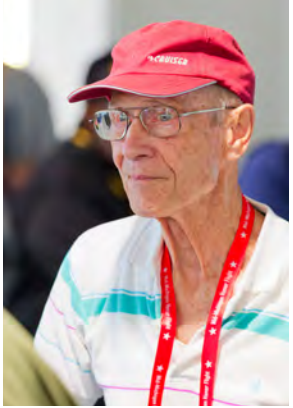
Army. Vietnam.



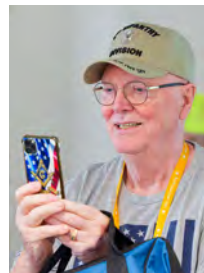


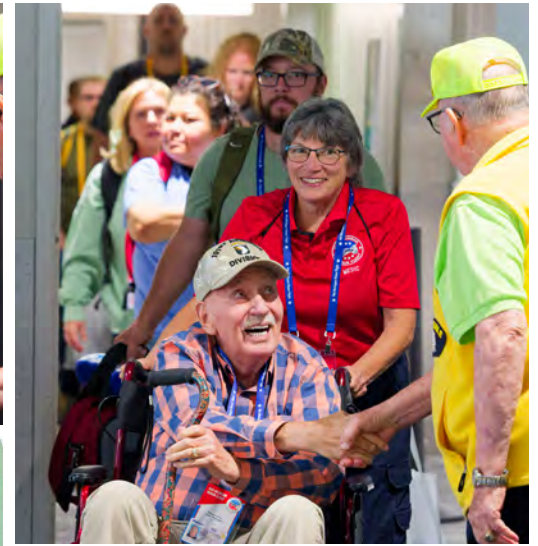
Navy. Vietnam. 1965 – 1968. E4 HM-4. I started out a hospital corpsman, where I was an OR Tech and ended up with the 1st Marine Division Mike Company at Camp Lejeune where I did my jungle training. I spent 13 months in Vietnam. I had a lot of things that were interesting. I went to Hawaii & Tokeyo, Okinawa and Guam. I spent 13 months in country. I was first at a MASH unit at Chulia and then I went out as a battlefield medic on missions. Vietnam Campaign medal.





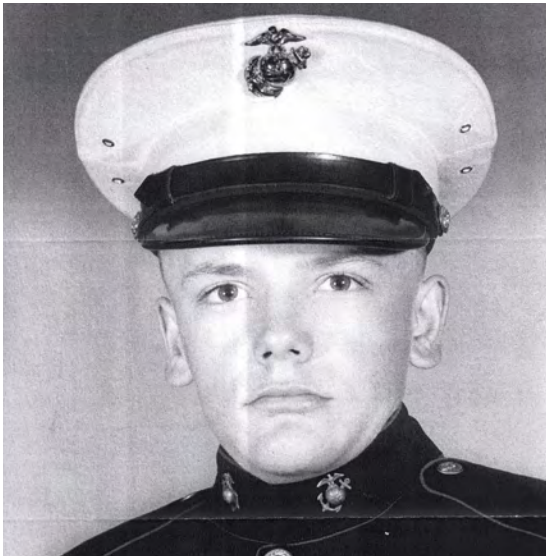
Marines. Vietnam.
Corporal. Stationed at
29 Palms.





Army. Vietnam. 1965 - 1969.





Army. Vietnam. January 25, 1970 – April 8, 1971. SP4 E4. NDSM EXP M-16 AFEM Korea USARPAC.





Army. Vietnam. 1968 - 1969.
Sergeant. Coming home. The best
of times and the WORST of time.





Army. Vietnam. June 1968 – Jan 1970. E-5 SPC-5. I was a grunt. I ended up being trained as a Sniper in Da Nang. Basic was Fort Knox and training for overseas I was at Fort Polk. My main training was in Da Nang with the 3rd Marine Division. I was in Vietnam over a year. Vietnam Campaign Medal – I was lucky & didn't bring a purple heart home.





Army. Vietnam. February 3, 1969 – December 31, 1971. E-5 SPC-5. I went to Vietnam. I was “AWOL” for a couple of weeks because they needed a clerk in Headquarters Company. They straightened it out so he could run a personal shop for 9,000 men. It was a S-1 shop to handle the personal affairs for a battalion of 9,000 men. When I was done, I was sent back to Fort Wayne, Michigan- in downtown Detroit. There I handled the Armed Forces examination & testing. I was personnel psychologist, interviewing those going into the service. I had to determine if they were a true category 5. Vietnam Campaign Medal, Bronze Star. We had 9 units scattered around Vietnam & Cambodia. I ran a detachment of captured American firearms that we had captured back. I ran that for approximately two weeks. As I was coming back from Cambodia-I saw a guy-with his weapon over his head, voicing “I surrender”. (Chu-hoy-chu-hoy)





Navy. Vietnam. 1973-1976. E-4 PO-3. I served as a cook on USS Forrestal. In 1975, we were in the Mediterranean. They had a raffle for a flight from the ship. I won! It was a EA 6B Prowler that I flew on-for four hours. After the flight, I landed on the flight deck. That pilot did everything to make me sick. I received the Meritorious Unit Accommodation, Nation Defense Medal.





Air Force. Vietnam. October 1973 – October 1977. E-4 Sgt. I was a munitions specialist. I was in five different places. Lackland AFB for basic. Tech School was at Lowery AFB in Colorado. Then my first duty station was Edwards AFB. Then I went to Utiapo, Thailand. I finished at Wurtsmith AFB here in Michigan. At Wurtsmith I was in EOD. Honorable Discharge. Below the zone. This was a new program that started in 1976. Then they changed the Buck Sgt. (SSgt) stripe and developed a SRA. I received my Buck Sgt Stripe earlier then I should have gotten it, when I was in Utiapo, Thailand.



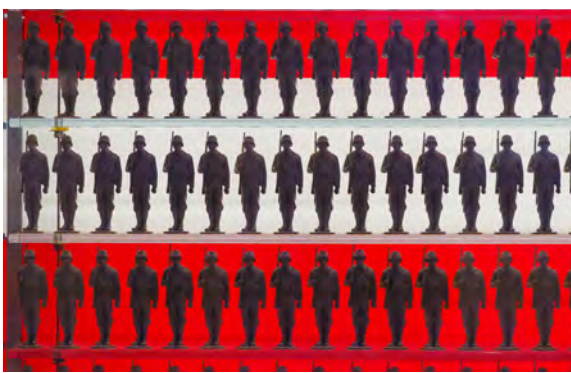


Air Force. Vietnam. 1965 - 1969. He went to Vietnam as a supply unit on flight line. Did a cycle inventory at Kamron Bay Vietnam under combat conditions. Almost fell out of a C140 when being airlifted out in combat. Ended up in San Antonio after Vietnam. He was issued a bicycle to get around the hangers; it was a mile long. Honorable Discharge. Commendation medal for the inventory under combat.





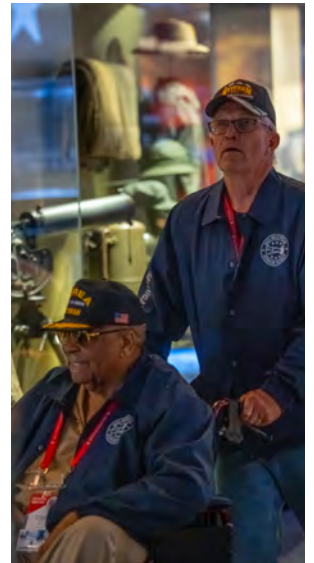
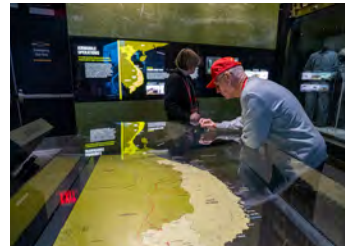
Army. Korea. July 22, 1950 – June 30, 1955. E-5 SSgt. Served in Korea. Served w/ the 24th Inf Regiment, 25 Division. 11B. I joined the Army because I wanted a job. Then the war broke out. Two Purple Hearts, C I B., Korean Service (5) Battle Stars ETC. United Nations Ribbon.





Marines. Vietnam. May 20, 1968 – May 20, 1970. Corporal. Honorable Discharge. Wounded in the first 11 months and then became a combat engineer. Also called Arizona territory checking for land mines.



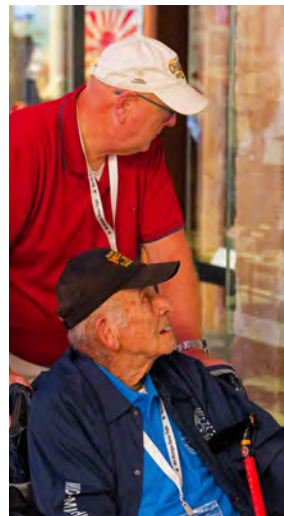


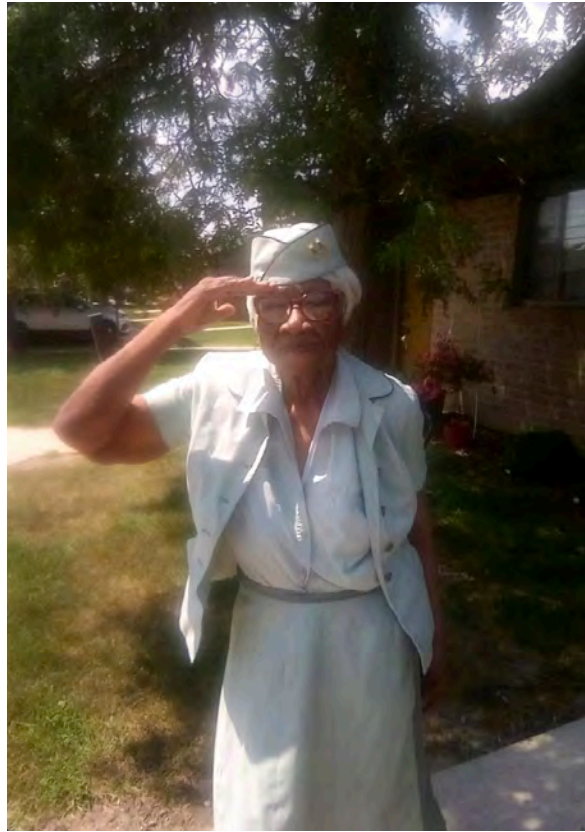
Army. Vietnam & Other. Army
November 8, 1965 - October 28,
1967. SPC-5. I was a helicopter
mechanic. Worked in aviation. I
was deployed to Korea after my
orders for Vietnam were cancelled.
I just did my job.





Navy. Korea. 1959 was only in for 5 weeks. Nervous condition lead to discharge. He gets his VA benefits.





Army. Vietnam. Army December 1971 – 1973. National Guard 1973 – 1974. E-4 SPC-4. I was an engineer mechanic. We took care of all of the engineer equipment & maintance. Our biggest thing was an EC16 Dozer. We worked on bucket loaders, generators, chain saws. Anything the engineers would. My duty station was Fort Carson, Colorado. Soldier of the Month.





Marines. Vietnam. 1964. Delayed entry, then a month after graduation I went Active July 8, 1964 – 1968. E-5 SGT. First year I went to Memphis for a school training. Then I went to Cherry Point, NC. While there I was nominated for State Dept Duty. I went to Henderson Hall in Arlington, VA. While there I was training for embassy duty. I passed my training to do embassy duty. I was then sent back to headquarters. I received marksmanship, rifle medal, good conduct. Actual service defense & the Embassy Security Guard medal.





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*

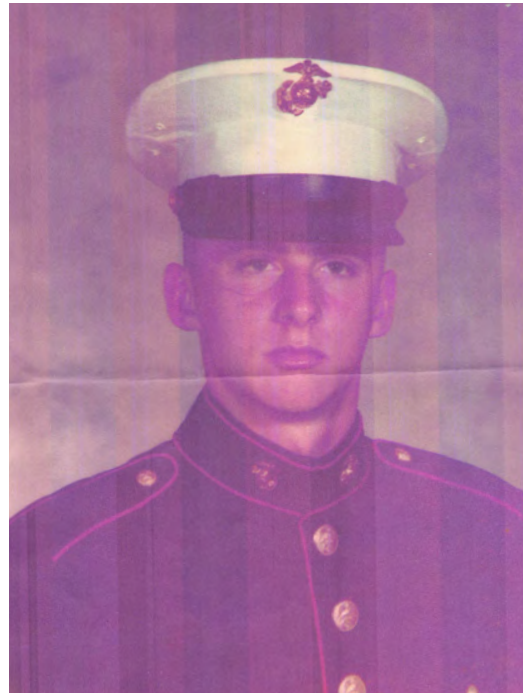
*So many of our youth, have died to keep us free
They never had the chance, to see what they could be
I lift my eyes to heaven, and give thanks to those so brave
They gave their lives in battle, and for those they could not save
Give thanks to all those veterans, who have fought to keep us free
So we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





Army. Vietnam. Grew up with a friend, each others best men at weddings. Scheduled to go out of country. Excited to fly home. They caught the last chopper. There was a chopper in front of them. His copter took off and the copter in front of them exploded in a ball of fire. Thought son of a bitch, there were 7 guys on that fireball. Did not know any of them. But this was the on the way home for good flights. Last day and they did not make it. Indelible memory.





Army. Vietnam. June 6, 1966 – March 23, 1973. Com CIB Infantry E6. 3 Bronze Stars, Valor, 3 Accom Medals, 2 Air Medals, 2 Purple Hearts, Good Conducts, Vietnam Service Medal, COM CIB Infantry.



Army. Vietnam. 1970-1971. Spec 4. In combat...blown up. Spent a year in a body cast. 25th...11th Calvary. Was on Marble Mountain. It was the 3rd largest ammunition dump in Vietnam. 2 weeks to go on his 1 year tour. The North worked in and blew it up. Bodies flying all over. Pulled 7 seven dead bodies off to get to him.





Army. Korea. August 14, 1952 – July 28, 1955. PVT. In military intelligence.





Air Force. Vietnam. 1972 – 1976. Sergeant. Was an Air Force supply and refueling personal.





Army. Vietnam. 3 years. E-4. Honorable Discharge.





Marines. Vietnam.
1968 - 1970.
Lance Corporal.



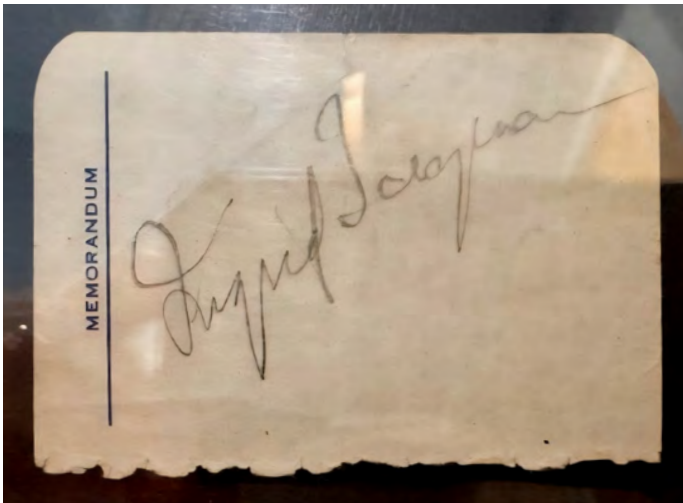


Army. Vietnam. February 11, 1969 – December 28, 1970. E-5. Honorable Discharge. Bronze Star for Valor, Arcom for Valor.





Army. Korea. October 28, 1954 - October 18, 1957. SP 3 (T). Was trained for combat engineer, ended up deuce and a half. Had 32 months in Germany. Honorable Discharge. Army of Occupation Medal, Good Conduct Medal.





Navy. Vietnam. 1958 – 1964. Petty Officer 2nd Class. Was noncombat, serviced at Naval Air Station in Michigan. Finished tour at Andrews Air Force Base. Marched in John F. Kennedy's Funeral, as well as Hoover's and General MacArthur's funeral. In 1963 won the all Navy Bowling Tournament. While at Andrews, he was on the tarmac when JFK's body was flown back watching them get off the plane.



In Service

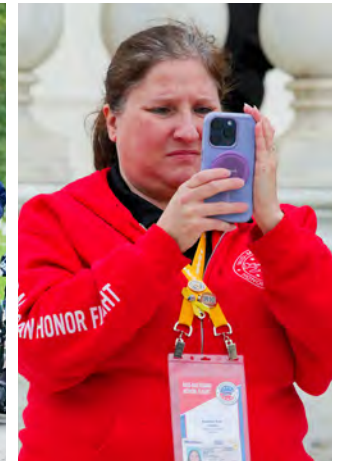
**AIRMAN
RODEGEB**



Airman Barbara Ann Rodegeb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Rodegeb, 1516 Scott, is home on leave. She will report to Patrick AFB, Cocoa Beach, Fla., Sept. 3.

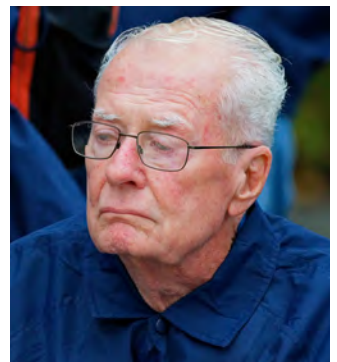
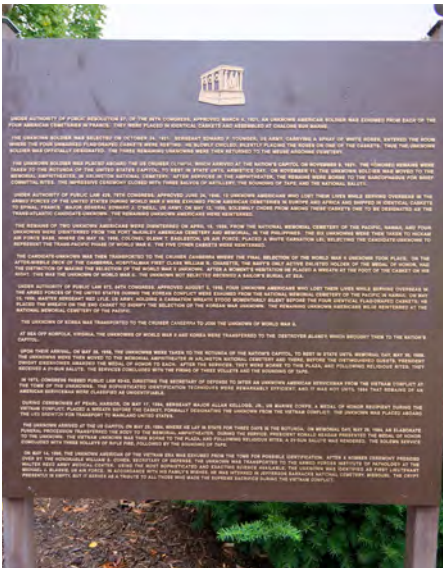
A 1972 graduate of Port Huron Northern High School, she entered the service April 12, 1973 and completed training at Sheppard AFB, Texas. She is a medical service specialist.

Army. Korea. July 15, 1953 – June 4, 1955. Cook - Food Service School - September to November 1953. Corporal - 540th Trucking Company. Honorable Discharge. Our trucking company was one of the companies that transported Chinese prisoners during the prisoner swap.





Navy. Vietnam. 1970 - 1972. E-5. I was a builder, Seabees. I went to Vietnam with a Seabee team, which was made of of 13 guys. We built two bridges, 27 Kilometer roads. We put in a foundation for a school. We started out in Cuba-working on a radar station. Vietnam Campaign Medal.





Air Force. 1977 – 1990, 2007 – 2016. Tech Sgt. E-6. I was an aircraft electrician. Later I was in ammo. We built them by adding the fins and fuses. Then deliver them to the loaders. I went to Kuwait. I received the Air Force Commendation Medal.

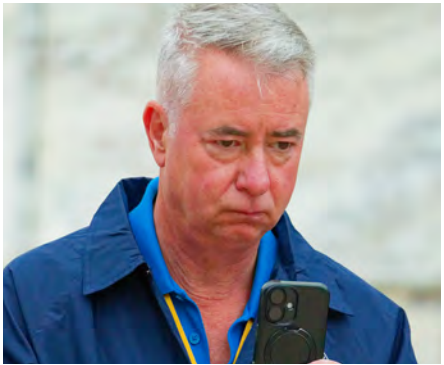
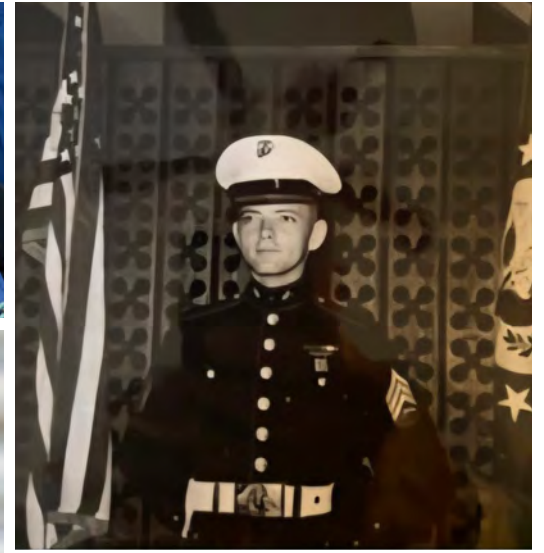


Army. Vietnam. Active duty 1972 – 1975, Reserves
1975 – 1985. SFC E-7. Honorable Discharge.









Army. Vietnam. September 1966 - October 1967. E4.



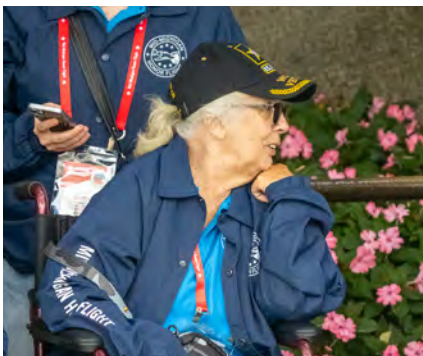
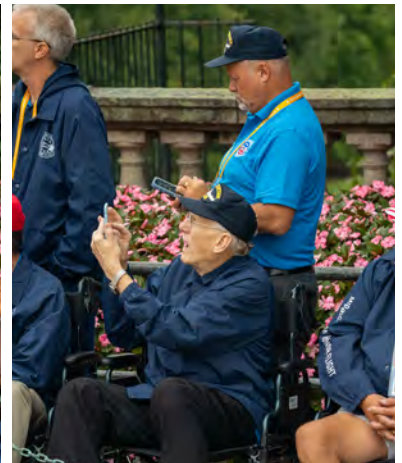


Army. March 1968 – March 1970.
SPC-4. Transportation-I was a truck driver. I went overseas, I was put with a transportation unit & I ended up driving a 5 ton gun truck in convoys, in Vietnam. Vietnam Campaign Medal. I was given an award for 5000 Accident Free Miles in Vietnam.





Navy. Vietnam. 1969 – 1970. 3rd class petty officer, SEABEES. 13 months in Vietnam. Battalion grew from 500 to 1500 men. Accountable to build the villages next to all the American facilities which were being turned over to the south Vietnamese.





Air Force. Vietnam. 1958 – 1969. Played football in Spain for the Air Force. Right Guard, punter and team captain.

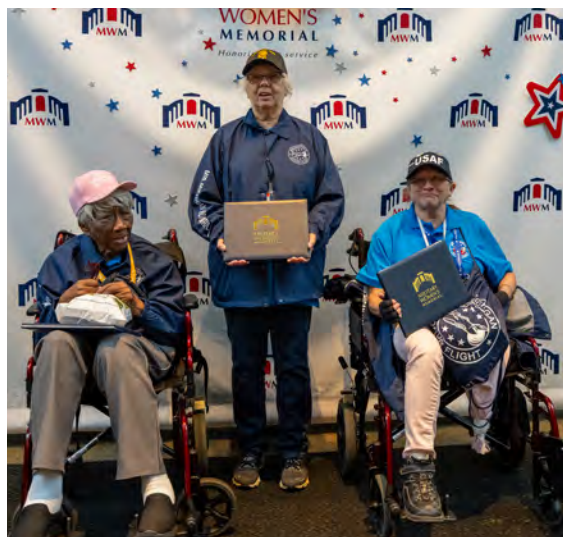




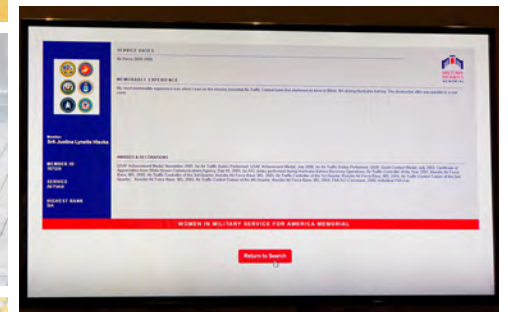
Marines. Vietnam. 1974 – 1977. Corporal E4. Honorable Discharge.



Air Force. Korea. February 1948 – July 1982. Crew Chief. Met Prince Phillip and the Crown Prince of Japan.



Army. Vietnam. December 12, 1965 – February 1, 1967. SPC-4 E-4. US ARMY 89th, Military Police Group Headquarters. I spent Aug 1965-Aug. 1966 in Vietnam. I was a draftsman for the group headquarters. I drew maps for all of the incoming personnel that were coming in at the time. I made charts & maps for our commanding officer so he could talk to people. We went over to prove that group headquarters could operate in a combat zone. National Defense Service Medal -Vietnam, Medal-RVNCM W/Device 1960 -Expert Rifle M-14.





Marines. Vietnam. April 1959 – December 1964. Grunt and then 2 yrs MP and then Quantico for munitions and then munitions tech in Okinawa.

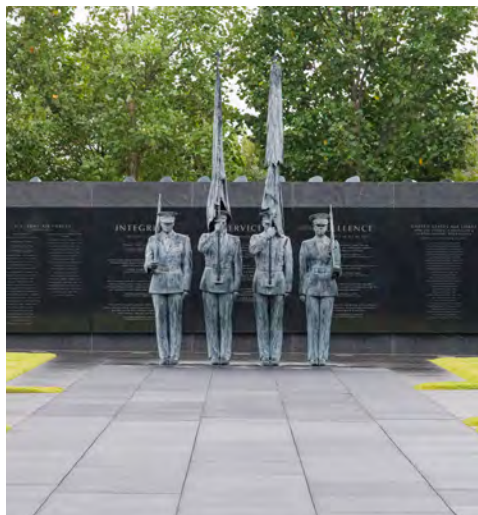
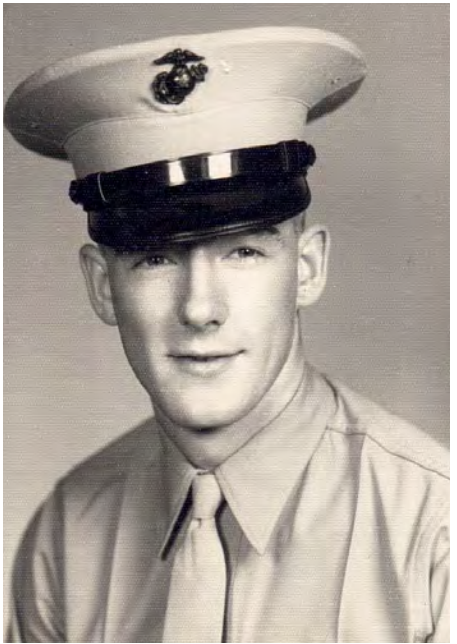


Marines. Vietnam. 1966 – 1968. Lance Corporal. On mess duty just before they were to leave Vietnam... made beer...gunny could smell it but could not find it!!!





Marines. Vietnam. 1967 – 1972. E-5 Sgt. Honorable Discharge. Received Purple Heart. Graduated with 36 high school students. Went to Basic with them all and only two returned from Vietnam.



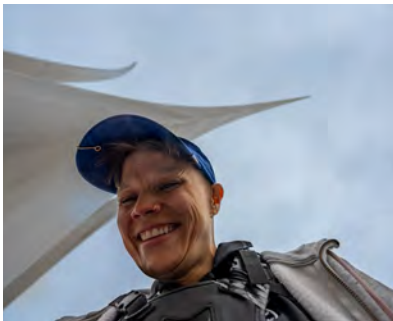


Air Force. Vietnam. April 12, 1973 – March 12, 1975. E-3 Airman 1st class. Served as a medic. Worked in the hospital. My job was a cross between an LPN & an RN.





Marines. Vietnam. June 1968 – May 1970.
CPL. 0844 MOS Fire Direction Patrolman.
The forward observer would figure out
where to shoot the rockets and radio it back
to me. Vietnam Campaign Medal w/2 stars
Vietnam Service Medal.





Air Force. Vietnam. July 1961 – April 1966. Crew Chief F-100 Crew Chief F-105 Operation Rolling Thunder. A1c - E-4. He went to Thailand. He spent his tour overseas Yukida, Japan. Repairing battle damage on F105's that were bombing N. Vietnam. Prior to that he was crew chief on F-100's in England. Afterwards he went to Wichita, KS where he was trained on the F 105's. Airman of the month of the 20th TFW (twice) Airman of the quarter of the 23rd TFW Expeditionary Forces Medal.





Marines. Vietnam. January 1969 – January 1970. PFC. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Korea. January 2, 1952 - December 26, 1953. Cpl. I went to Nuremburg, Germany in Armored Infantry, in the motor pool as a mechanic. I got an occupation medal.





Army. Vietnam. 1967 – 1972. Sgt E-5. I was an RTO. I did radios & radio teletype. I was an MP for about 9 months. Then I went to Vietnam and was the captain's radio operator. He actually wanted me to stay & make me an E-6. I turned it down. Then I was sent back to Germany for 7-8 months. I saw Cambodia as well, in Mid 1970. That's where I was when I received my Purple Heart & Army Commendation. We were awarded a citation for valor when we were in Cambodia. Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct, Purple Heart & Army Commendation Medal.

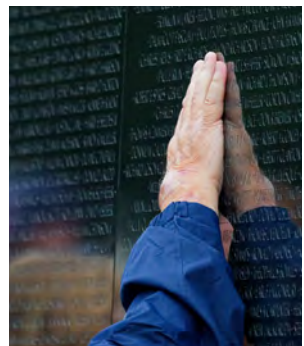


Army. Vietnam. 1971 – 1979. E-6 SSgt. Airborne w/101st Airborne Division. I was Air Mobile Recon-to protect the forward observer. After Vietnam I was at Ft. Hood as a driver colonel's driver 2 years. In January of 1974 I landed in Germany. I was there from 1974-1977 in Berlin. I was a supply sergeant ammo NCO for the 40th Armor. In March 1974 I was sent to Ft. Riley 1st of the 6th INF-Big Red One, as a repelling instructor. In March of 1979 I was done with active duty-joined the reserves. I taught for two years at Ft. Riley. Following that I came back to Michigan. Vietnam Campaign medal, service ribbon. Berlin Occupation Medal Army commendation. Airborne Wings. I did 38 jumps with Col. Robert F. Molinelli, Lt. Gen.



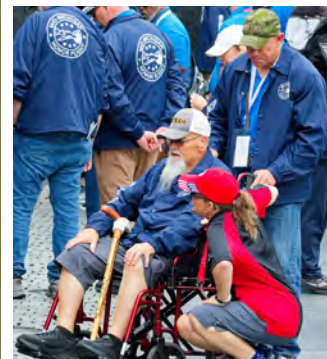


Army, Air Force. Vietnam. Army July 1961 - 1963. E4.





Army. Korea & Vietnam.
1957 – 1960. Captain.
Surgical Registered Nurse.
We had 7-10 surgical
theaters. If surgery was
scheduled in my theater,
I did my job. I don't feel
that I'm a hero because
I didn't see combat. I was
at Walter Reed Hospital.





Marines. Vietnam. 20 June 20, 1968 – June 19, 1972. Cpl. In Pensacola FL, I learned Morse code. Went to Monterey, CA & learned Vietnamese. I spent a year in Vietnam & intercepted a communication which saved his unit because they were ready for them. After Vietnam, I went to Homestead, FL for my final year. Vietnam Service Medal with three stars. Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Achievement Medal. Meritorious Commendation Medal.





Army. Vietnam. 1965 – 1967. E-5. I went to Vietnam. I was a helicopter crew chief mechanic-gunner. I was a door gunner on a Huey. When we came back, we rolled into Bragg. I wasn't airborne but they needed my MOS. We were there to help train their new special forces. We did war games against special forces. (No real bullets were fired.) I got to work with RECON, I worked with the Australians, the Koreans. We got to mess around with the Air America. (Don't call it that anymore.) They were special pilots that secretly flew the VIPs. Used everything that the Army & Air Force did. I received the Vietnam Campaign Medal-three or four bronze stars, got a couple of Oak Leaves & with the V devices.



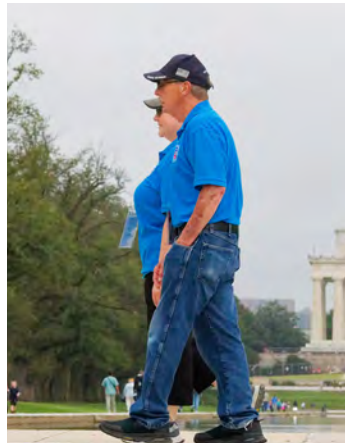


Marines. Vietnam. May 29, 1969 – March 10, 1971. E-3. Infantry, platoon radio operator in the field. Called in medivac, Artillery. Served on Hamburger Hill in Vietnam. Spent 23 years Army Reserves as a Drill Sgt. Honorable Discharge.

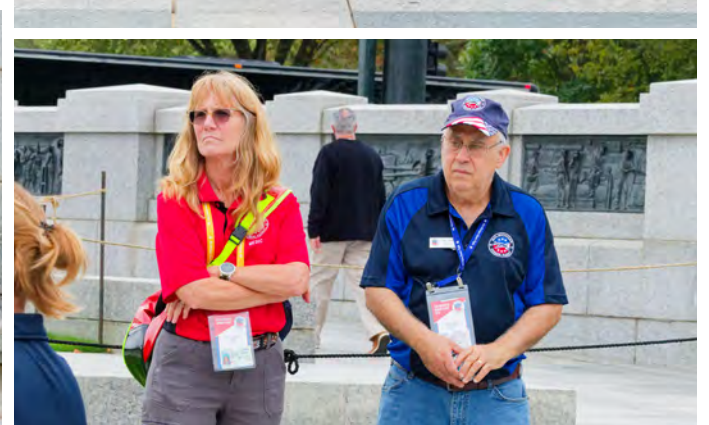
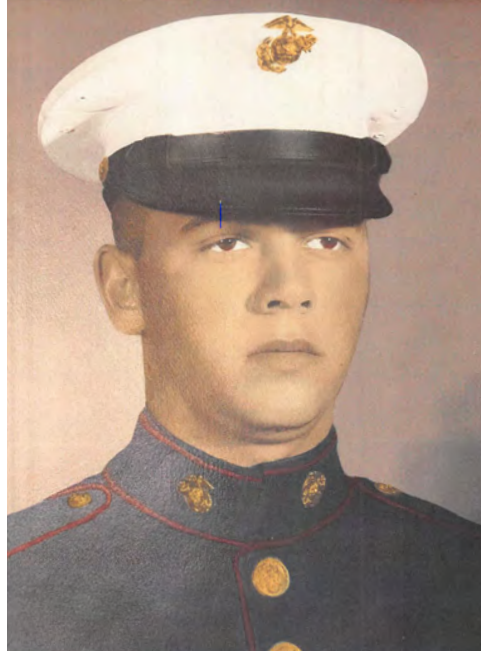




Army. Vietnam. 1968 – 1970.
Specialist 5th Class. Medic. Silver
and Bronze star, Purple Hearts.
I don't regret going through
the experience, but I saw a lot
of things a 19-year-old never
should have seen. It was an
honor to serve with all whom I
was with.



Army. Vietnam. January 1974 – January 1977. E4. Basic training.

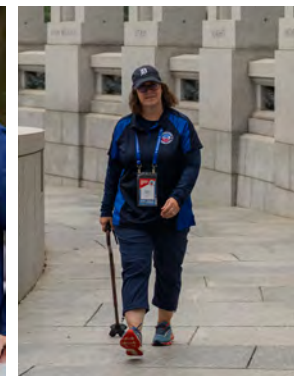
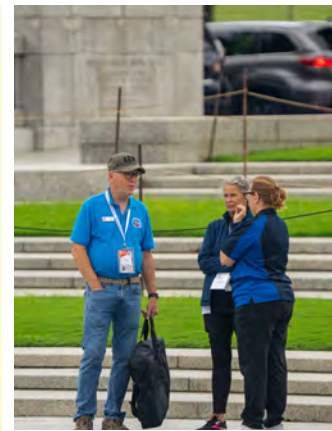


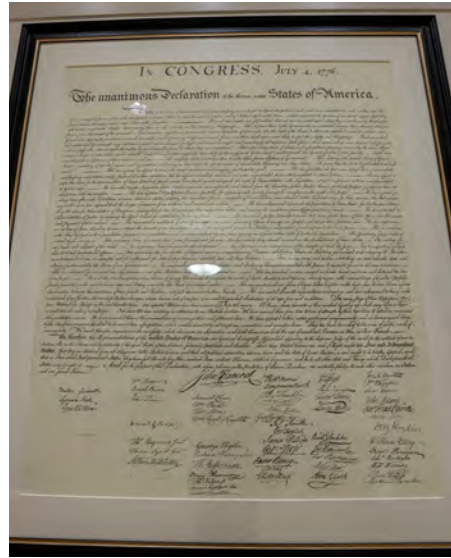
Air Force. Vietnam. E-6 Tec Sgt. 20 years in the AF, 22 years with DECA, Achievement medal for assisting with the bodies from the Lebanon bombing.



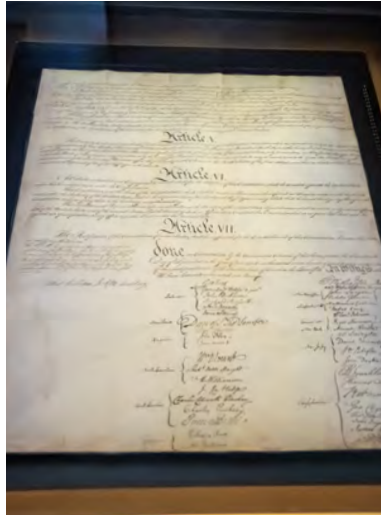
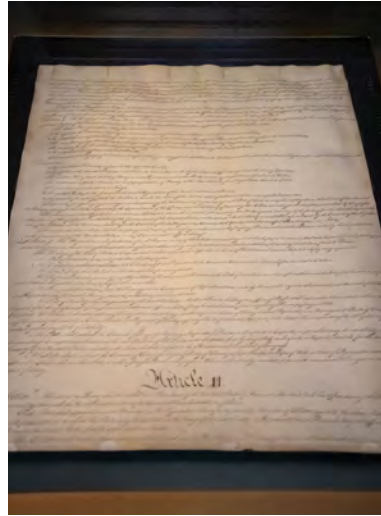
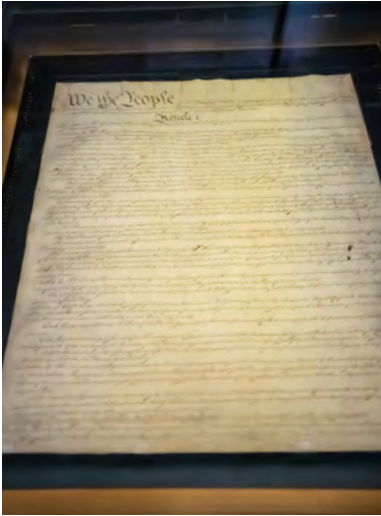


Army. Vietnam. 1967 – 1970. Sergeant E5. Engineer...combat. Heavy equipment. Then became a company clerk. Got sent as heavy equipment engineer and got assigned as a company clerk. Got assigned to 100 Float Bridge.

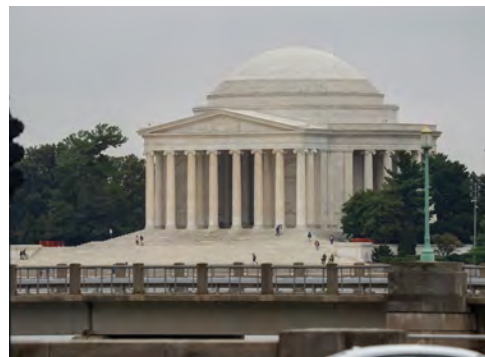




Army. Vietnam. Served September 16, 1969 – June 16, 1971 in Training at Knox, went to Vietnam for one year, MOS-11B-Lite weapons infantry. He still communicates with family of one his fallen brothers, who pushed him out of way and took a bullet and died from his injuries. Honorable Discharge.

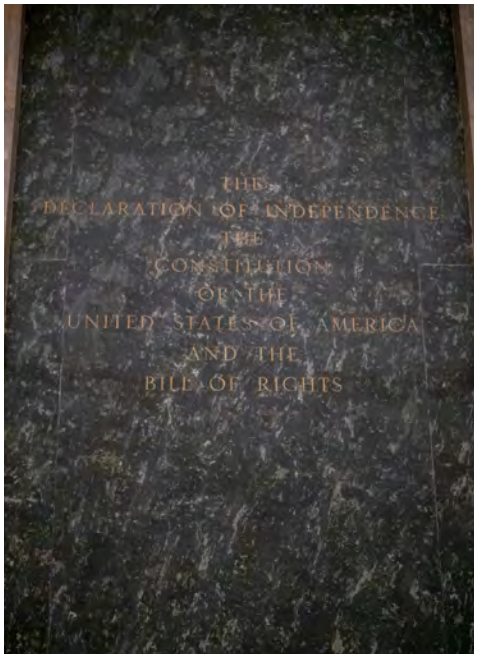


Army. Korea. October 1954
– December 1956. Rifleman.
Spec 4 - Army Infantry.
Sent to Germany. Received
sharpshooter award.





Navy. Vietnam in 1968 served 1965 – 1969. E4.



Army. Korea, Vietnam. 1956 – 1958. According to the American Legion he was in Reserves during Vietnam. PFC. Paratrooper 101st. Airborne Screaming Eagles. At one point I was sent to Little Rock, Arkansas, so we could stand to guard the Little Rock 9 to get them into the Little Rock Central High School. We were photographed & in Life, Look & on the cover of Time, because I was the squad leader. As a paratrooper, I'd jump out of the back of the plane with a jeep that had a 106 recoilless rifle attached to it.





Marines. Vietnam. Served in San Diego 1967 – 1968, then went to Okinawa, finished term in Camp Lejuene. Supply CPL. Honorable Discharge.





Army. WW II. June 1, 1944/1946. PFC. I did quite a few things. I drove a lot, in convoys. I was in a camp with a few thousand Russians. I tried to be an interpreter with my Polish language. In Heidelberg & Stuttgart. My main job was getting into a camp in Bonn-we had displaced persons. We had to feed them & when they'd call for an interpreter and I tried to communicate with them, to get them fed. We had to supply security for them as well. My company had a few soldiers on the side for security. There was a little while that I had to live with them. Besides securing Germany after the Battle of the Bulge he ran security for ISO celebrities, i.e., Ingrid Bergman. At one point I was her acting security. She was real nice and polite. Very intelligent. I had a few pictures and put them in a picture frame. I had her autograph. I do have a few medals. It was from the places that I've been. My congressman sent them to me.



Air Force. Vietnam. August 1969 – August 1973 Flew missions to Vietnam out of Quawm. SSG. Honorable Discharge.





Army. Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Gulf War / War on Terrorism. September 11, 1966 – July 5, 1994. Lt. Col. I was a company commander 1970-71 in Vietnam. In Benwa then to Camp Evans. I was an ordnance officer. I had a large variety of jobs over 28 years. Vietnam Campaign Medal.





Army. Vietnam. 1968 – 1970. E-5 SPC-5. I worked as a radio repairman, 31-E. I spent 6 months in Georgia-8 months in the States. I then went to Germany & spent a year as a radio repairman. Then went to Vietnam. I spent time being a guard at 1st Signal Brigade. I was stationed in Saigon. I volunteered for an extra two months in country. Then went down to the 9th Infantry where I did radio repair work. They stood down so I was then sent over to the 11th Cavalry where I finished my last two months. When I was in the 9th Infantry-I was put on a contact team and we given the opportunity to follow an Infantry Company. Wherever they went-we followed & set up a camp. We ate sea rations for six months. Sometimes we put a tarp over our truck & that's where we slept. Vietnam Campaign Medal.





Army. Vietnam. 1968 – 1969. SPC-4. Radio teletype. I was in Vietnam, so we were mortared once, shot at once. When I was shot at, I heard the buzz before I actually heard the shot. The dude was quite a ways away. Vietnam Campaign Medal. Bronze star.





Navy. Vietnam. 1960 - 1963.
 PO-2 E-5. Electricians Mate I was
 involved in surveying ships that
 were anchored in the James River.
 During the Berlin Crisis, we went
 aboard these troop transport
 ships. We had to aboard at night
 & used flashlights. We checked
 the engines. I was on a WWII
 carrier in Pensacola, we had to
 stock the ships during the Cuban
 Missile Crisis. Good conduct
 Medal & National Defense Medal.





Army. Vietnam. 1963 – 1966. Sp4. Transportation. Honorable Discharge. Drove General Rudder at D-Day Celebration in Normandy, France.



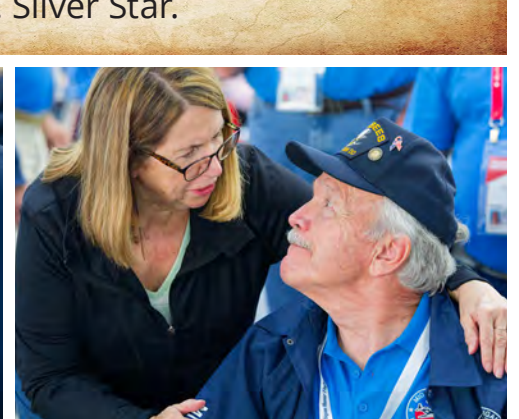


Army. Vietnam. 1968 – 1970. E-5. MOS-71A20 Personnel Specialist. I flew into Cameron Bay out of Ft. Lewis, WA – I was there for maybe 7 hours. Then I was put on a plane & sent down to the Delta. I was with the 9th Division then shipped up to a little base camp-Tan An. I was then put behind a desk and told that I was a clerk typist. I couldn't type. Then I went to the motor pool & drove a jeep for about 10 months. Other times I went on patrol and then worked as a spotter on a chopper. I did convoys – I was a courier. Then division decided to pull out – and our brigade was turned into a mini division. I then took people around to show them the satellite base camps. I was sent to the 25th Division at Koo-chi. I extended so I could get an early out. Honorable Discharge. Went to Vietnam was a courier, tank driver and convey driver. National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Viennese Gallantry Cross with Palms, ARMY Commendation Medal, Civic Actions Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Bronze Star.





Army. Vietnam, Other. 1966 - 1969. E-5 Sgt. I was in Germany for a year then I went to Vietnam. I was a special agent, military intelligence. During the 1968 Tet Offensive, they captured the town that I was in. They went house to house and searched for all non-Vietnamese. Two that I knew were women-a doctor and a schoolteacher. The teacher was from Michigan. There were 26 of us that they were taking to Hanoi and we were going to have to walk the 400 miles. It was while we were in Laos, that I decided to escape with another soldier from my unit. (We both have the same birthdate.) We both successfully got away. P.O.W. Vietnam Campaign medal. Silver Star.





Navy. Vietnam. February 1970 – February 1973. Naval aviation. Deployed twice. Once on USS Kitty Hawk... and USS America.

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."

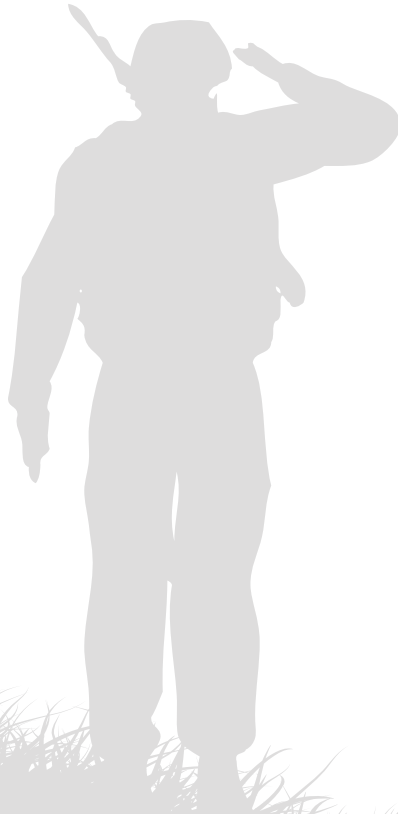
Then the man looked away and said, "I know how you must feel.
I spent two long years in Vietnam and I got back to Jacksonville.
There were protest sign and picket lines and some girl spit in my face.
Hey I was just a kid tryin' to make this world a safe place."

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....."



SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2025 FLIGHT

Richard Allen	Jack Drygalski	Dennis McIntire	Roger Schuch
Gary Bailey	Lawrence Dubey	Karen McKervery	Richard Schwartz
Jerry Bean	Thomas Edwards, Jr.	Reynold Meisegeier	Dennis Shaw
Joe Berry	Daniel Ery	William Melborne, Jr.	Francis Shelby
William Berry	Wayne Eversole	Alfred Merritt	Stephen Smith
Jerome Bresser	David Glaser	Joseph Michalski	Larry Steffenhagen
Gary Brown	Glenn Gronevelt	Claude Miller	Thomas Sylvester
William Buckholtz	Robert Hayhurst	Richard Monroe	Robert Tobin
Robert Bulow	David Holman	Mario Musotto	Richard Tracy
Edward Burgess	Lawrence Hubbard	Thomas Ossowski	Robert Tuttle
Bruce Burkel	Raymond Jefferson	Wayne Paquette	Michael Tyrrell
Evaristo Cantu, Jr.	Daniel Korbijn	Leonard Pointe	Ronald Vance
Dean Chaffee	Ronald Lanivich	James Quick	Richard Vanderkarr
Richard Claypool	Gordon Larsen	Raymond Rayl	John Wahlers
Jacques Coon	Paul Law	Ashley Richardson	Robert Walls
Jeffery Craig	Clarence Lee	Barbara Rodegeb-Brennan	John Williams
Edward Davidson	John Lough	Robert Roebuck	James Wood
Gary Dell	Kendall MacConnell	Walter Rolston	Robert Woodman
Stephen Deneen	Ignacio Martinez, Jr.	Richard Root	Gerald Young
Thomas DePrekel	James McConnell	Theodore Rose, Jr.	

Once a SOLDIER



Always a SOLDIER

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