

Vietnam Conflict (1961-1975)

"They say:

*Our deaths are not ours;
they are yours;
they will mean what
you make them."*

from the poem **"The Young Dead Soldiers"** by
Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982)

—from **Collected Poems, 1917-1982** by Archibald
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—NARA photo

Prelude to the War: 1954-1960

The Battle of Dien Bien Phu between Vietnamese forces and the French in 1954 lasted 55 days. Three thousand French troops were killed, 8,000 wounded. The Viet Minh suffered 8,000 deaths and 12,000 personnel were wounded.

This battle is considered by many historians to be a defining moment in Southeast Asia.

During 1959 a specialized North Vietnamese Army unit is formed to create a supply route from North Vietnam to Vietcong forces in South Vietnam. This primitive route along the Vietnamese/Cambodian border eventually becomes known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

The U.S. Steps Up Involvement

1961 – President Kennedy orders more help for the South Vietnamese government in its war against the Vietcong guerillas. More than 3,000 military advisors and support personnel are sent.

1962 – Helicopters flown by U.S. Army pilots mark the first U.S. combat missions against the Vietcong.



—NARA photo

Maine voters wrote about military service in Vietnam and the challenges of helicopter duty:

I am voting in honor of James Godfrey, a boyhood friend and schoolmate. He joined the Army and became a helicopter pilot. He was killed in Vietnam.

Robert D. Hodgkins, Greene

Served in Vietnam and Desert Storm

My Army buddy, James Franklin, was a fixed wing and chopper pilot in Vietnam.

Richard E. Giffard, Brewer

U.S. Army (Ret.), served in Korea and Vietnam



James Franklin

Vast tracks of forest are sprayed with "Agent Orange," an herbicide containing the deadly chemical Dioxin. Guerilla trails are exposed and crops that might feed Vietcong are destroyed.



Mark A. Michaud

I am voting in honor of my son, Mark A. Michaud, who received the following Award of the Air Medal for Heroism:

"While participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Four Mark A. Michaud distinguished himself as a crew chief of a UH-1H helicopter. When his aircraft became the target of intense enemy automatic weapons fire, Specialist Michaud continuously exposed himself to the enemy while providing suppressive fire. After the aircraft was rendered unflyable, and he was saturated with aviation fuel from the leaking fuel cells, he continued to suppress the enemy with intense machine-gun fire...Specialist Michaud's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

He died on June 29, 2000 at 52 years of age from the effects of Agent Orange.

Lawrence A. Michaud, Ashland

1963-1964 – The Vietcong and local guerillas ambush the South Vietnamese on January 2, 1963.

Almost 400 South Vietnamese are killed or wounded.

On **November 22, 1963**, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated. Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson becomes President.

At this time 16,000 military advisors are in Vietnam. The Kennedy administration had run the war from Washington without large-scale commitment of American combat troops.



*Lyndon Baines Johnson
36th President of the
United States*

President Johnson, however, argues for more expansive war powers after the raid on two U.S. ships in the Gulf of Tonkin.

April-June 1964 – American air power is massively reinforced and two aircraft carriers arrive off the Vietnamese coast prompted by a North Vietnamese offensive in Laos.

Early August, 1964 – Forces of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) attack two American ships in the Gulf of Tonkin.

August 7, 1964 – The U.S. Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Johnson the power to take whatever actions he deems necessary to defend Southeast Asia.

1965 – President Johnson sends the first combat troops to Vietnam.

1965-1967 – There are not enough volunteers to continue to fight a protracted war and the government institutes a draft.

Sentiment against the U.S. participation in the war increases. Growing numbers of citizens begin to question whether the U.S. effort can succeed, and they express their dissatisfaction in peace marches, demonstrations, and acts of civil disobedience.

This was a period of overwhelming personal losses and dramatic sacrifices:

We pay tribute to father and "Grampie," Richard A. Greene, who served in the Army in Vietnam during 1965-66.

Audrey Greene, Kenduskeag, daughter

Shauni Greene, Kenduskeag, granddaughter

I am voting in honor of Sgt. Charles Benjamin Norris, USMC. I left Vietnam in mid-March of 1966. Sgt. Norris took over my squad but he was killed on 21 April 1966. We had never met.

James N. Phinney, Pittsfield

Served in Vietnam, 1964-66

Born in Waterville, David Walter Marlborough was one of 34 killed June 8, 1967 on the *USS Liberty*. He was the only Maine resident to be killed during this "6-Day War."

Kenneth C. Johnson, Lamoine

Served in Vietnam era

Robert (Bobbie) Blye and I served in Vietnam together. At least once he saved my life. He was killed in action, November 21, 1967.

Frank D. Connors,

Bowdoinham

Served in Vietnam



Robert Blye & Frank D. Connors

I am voting in honor of my mom and dad, Rena and Gerard Wynn. Dad was a graduate of West Point, class of 1956. He was a Major and served with the U.S. Army, Special Forces. He died during his 2nd tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967. Mom had met Dad while she was serving as an Army Nurse, 1st Lt.

Elizabeth Wynn Shirk, South Portland

My best friend, Joe Shumpert, was killed in Vietnam in the Army on December 25, 1967. I sure miss him.

Randall C. Ellis, Belfast

Served in Vietnam, 1967-68

My brother, Marvin W. Woodbury, served with the 4th Infantry from 1966 - 1969. He did two tours so I wouldn't have to go to Vietnam, but I went after he came home.

Donald P. Woodbury, Gorham

Served in Vietnam

1968 The Tet Offensive

Vietnamese tradition held that the turning of the lunar year should bring auspicious signs and gladness of heart; thus, it had become customary for both sides to observe a truce during the holiday celebrations. In 1968, a thirty-six hour cease-fire had been agreed upon, to commence at midnight on January 30.

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—Vets with a Mission Vietnam Photo Journal of the Tet Offensive



Tet Offensive, January 30, 1968

The **Tet Offensive** brought the war to the cities for the first time. General Westmoreland established **Operation Recovery** to coordinate the rebuilding process for these cities.

Please put the number "37" on my Vote for a Veteran button. This represents the men in my unit who were killed and that I helped to unload from my chopper during Tet in '68.

Willis Stanley, Palmyra

Served in Vietnam, 1967-69

I am honoring my uncle, Cpl. André Dubé, USMC, who was killed during the Tet Offensive. He was the youngest of 13 children and signed up because my father had also served in Vietnam as a Marine. My dad escorted his body home.

Mike Dubé, Madawaska

Served in Grenada, West Indies, Beirut and Lebanon



André Dubé



André Dubé

My brother, André L. Dubé, served in the USMC from June 1963 to August 1966, when he was killed in action. He received his first Purple Heart in March of 1966. He requested to remain in country for his duration. He was 21 years old.

John T. Dubé, Jay

Served in Vietnam, U.S. Navy

I was wounded 3 times in the Tet Offensive in 1968. I served in the 9th Infantry, U.S. Army.

Jerry A. Elwell, Bristol

Served in Vietnam

By 1968, troop levels had reached 495,000. There had been 30,000 American deaths to date; approximately 1,000 were killed a month.

I volunteered another tour of duty for my buddy Mike Deschaine and will vote in his honor at this Election. Mike and I grew up together in Auburn.

He served in the 1st Marine Division and was KIA in his 3rd month in Vietnam.

Bertrand L. Levesque, Lisbon

Did 2 combat tours in Vietnam, 1967-70

I am honoring Dennis Graham, my college friend at Texas A&M College, an all male military school at the time. Dennis was poor, as we all were in this small college. Most of our families were sacrificing to get us through college. I know he worked in the mess hall three meals a day to help pay for his education. He was the one of us who did not drink and also was the Wing Chaplin— just the All-American young man.

We all graduated and went to pilot training. Dennis was my roommate during pilot training. After graduation we went to different planes, I to B-52s and Dennis to the F-111. Dennis told me when he got home he would leave the Air Force and fly for the Texas Air National Guard (F-102). He said the F-111 was a dangerous aircraft because the terrain-following radar had some problems. That was the last time I talked to him.

Six F-111s were sent to fly into Vietnam. They lost 3 in two weeks. Dennis was in the first one, as I understand. He was killed (MIA), an example of the waste of fine young men this war produced, a war this country was not willing to make the hard decisions to win.

Windol C. Weaver, York

USAF, 3 tours in Vietnam

My son, S/Sgt. Wayne C. Cyr, was a great, courageous soldier. He enlisted at age 17. He served in the Army Infantry and was killed in Vietnam on May 7, 1968, barely 21 years old. His brother, Master Sergeant Alvin Cyr made the Army his career and recently retired.

Bernice Maxheimer, Cherryfield

*A variety of requests to **Vote in Honor of a Veteran** were heartfelt memories that fondly recalled the importance of friends and loved ones:*

Cloyce Gress was a good buddy in my unit in Vietnam when we served together from 1968-69. He found me via computer after 30 years of separation.

*Randall Grady, Jefferson
Served in Vietnam*



Cloyce Gress & Randall Grady

I am voting in honor of my son, George J. Bursey, who was awarded the following Army Commendation Medal for heroism:

"On March 14, 1968, PFC. Bursey was serving as a radio-telephone operator with a forward observer on a reconnaissance in force operation in the vicinity of Cu Chi. His platoon was moving through dense jungle terrain when they were suddenly subjected to intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well concealed Viet Cong force...He observed several seriously wounded personnel lying in an area which was exposed to heavy enemy fire and, with complete disregard for his personal safety, immediately ran to their aid and assisted in carrying them to safety. His exemplary courage and initiative were instrumental in saving the lives of several of his fellow soldiers, and significantly contributed to the successful outcome of the encounter."

*George E. Bursey, Trenton
Served in WWII*

My husband, Gerald L. Caron, served in Vietnam in 1968. He went with the priest to the orphanage on Sundays so he could translate because he spoke French. He loved the children and would gladly have taken one of them home with him if he could have. He is very patriotic. He would go anywhere in the world to protect his family and country.

Claudette Caron, Lewiston



Gerald L. Caron

My father, Manuel Moreno, served in the Army for 23 years and fought in the Vietnam War. He is disabled from the war. I have great respect and

appreciation for him.

Janice Moreno, Richmond

I will vote in honor of my brother-in-law, Ken Stowe, of Topsfield, Massachusetts, who served in the army in Vietnam. His job was working with German Shepherds to train them to find land mines. One of his best dogs blew up in front of him on a land mine, saving his life.

Priscilla D. Hoekstra, Etna

1968 - 1972 – During 1969 action in South Vietnam is scattered and limited. In June, President Richard M. Nixon announces the withdrawal of 25,000 U.S. troops. There are more than 540,000 U.S. military personnel in Vietnam.

During spring of 1970 the Ho Chi Minh Trail is the constant target of B-52 bomber raids. Fighting expands into Cambodia, and new waves of anti-war protests erupt in the United States. By late 1970 the number of personnel in South Vietnam is 335,000.

The gradual withdrawal of military personnel in South Vietnam proceeds, but the peace talks are in a stalemate. The South Vietnamese take responsibility for fighting on the ground, but U.S. air support is still needed. The number of military personnel has dropped to 160,000.

In 1972 the North Vietnamese invade the DMZ and capture Quang Tri province. President Nixon responds by ordering intense bombing of the North.



*President Richard M. Nixon
37th President of the United States*

Maine voters honor veterans who served during this challenging time:

I will be voting in honor of Robert W. Fields. Bob was a medical doctor that I served with in the 14th USAF Hospital, Nha Trang, RVN. He was in a helicopter, which was shot down. He died in the crash on 26 March 1969. He was a good doctor and a good man.

*Charlie Smith, Presque Isle
Served in Vietnam*

I met Joe Nye when he was in Togus VA Hospital with me. I don't know his real first name – all he ever told me was "Joe." He was one of the most decorated servicemen in Vietnam. He felt strongly that the vets who returned from Desert Storm should be treated like heroes, not like the guys who came home from Vietnam. I really admired him.

Robert B. Chapman, Bangor

I want to honor SFC Yano and all patriots who have made the supreme sacrifice to ensure the torch of freedom will always burn brightly. I never met Sergeant First Class Yano, but this General Order tells all:

"Sergeant First Class Rodney J. T. Yano, United States Army, distinguished himself on 1 January 1969 while serving with the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Cavalry Regiment, in the vicinity of Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Yano was performing the duties of crew chief aboard the troop's command-and-control helicopter during action against enemy forces entrenched in dense jungle. From an exposed position in the face of intense small arms and antiaircraft fire he delivered suppressive fire upon the enemy forces and marked their positions with smoke and white phosphorous grenades, thus enabling his troop commander to direct accurate and effective artillery fire against the hostile emplacements. A grenade, exploding prematurely, covered him with burning phosphorous, and left him severely wounded. Flaming fragments within the helicopter caused supplies and ammunition to detonate. Dense white smoke filled the aircraft, obscuring the pilot's vision and causing him to lose control. Although having the use of only one arm and being partially blinded by the initial explosion, Sergeant Yano's indomitable courage and profound concern for his comrades averted loss of life and additional injury to the rest of the crew. By his conspicuous gallantry at the cost of his own life, in the highest traditions of the military service, Sergeant Yano has reflected great credit on himself, his unit and the United States Army."

Daniel J. Mulcahey, Brooks

Served in Vietnam, retired after 30 years

I am honoring Raymond Bechard, originally from Augusta, who was KIA in Vietnam in 1969. Ray and I were classmates as children.

*Gary P. Burns, Augusta
Served in Vietnam*



Raymond Bechard

I am voting in honor of my brother, Paul Joseph Frink. Paul was a Sergeant in the Army, Company D, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry. He died in Vietnam on April 7, 1970, 5 days after his 21st birthday. He was awarded 11 separate military decorations and awards posthumously: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Commendation, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign & Service Medals, Combat Infantryman's Badge and Sharpshooter's Badge. He is my hero.

According to newspaper accounts provided by his sisters, Sergeant Frink entered the service in February of 1969 and was sent to Vietnam in July of that year. He had distinguished himself by serving as a radio telephone operator during reconnaissance in "force operation" near fire support base Granite in the Republic of Vietnam.

While set up in a night defensive position, Sgt. Frink's unit came under an enemy sapper attack.*

Sgt. Frink was severely wounded, when a satchel charge exploded in his fighting position. Fearful that a call for help might direct the sapper force to other friendly positions, Sgt. Frink maintained silence despite the pain induced by his wounds.

With great courage he crawled under fire from his fighting position to his radio and called for friendly artillery and illumination. Sgt. Frink remained at his radio adjusting artillery fire until his physical condition made it imperative that he be evacuated.

Barbara Musmon, Saint Albans

**A sapper is a military engineer who specializes in field fortification activities, such as laying, detecting or disarming mines.*

I am voting in honor of 2 buddies. Percy Gagnon was killed in action March 23, 1970, in `Nam. He was a college classmate, teaching colleague, and fellow soldier. Stuart Woodman was killed in action June 6, 1970. I have dedicated each day of my life to their ultimate sacrifice.

*Melford J. Pelletier, Wallagrass
Served in Vietnam, 1969-71*

The following Maine voters used this opportunity to remember veterans whose names were on the MIA/POW bracelets they wore:

Roosevelt Hestle is an MIA from the Vietnam War. I wore an MIA bracelet of his for years. Last year my son placed it at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. I never knew him, but I honor his sacrifice.

Joan Leavitt, Palmyra



Designed by Yale student Maya Ying Lin, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built to honor the memory of those who served in the Vietnam War. Over 58,000 names are etched in the black granite Memorial whose walls point towards the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

The person I am honoring, James Klimo, Specialist 5, is still MIA in Vietnam. I believe he was in the Army. His is the name on a POW/MIA bracelet that belonged to my mother.

Jennifer E.S. Ballweg, Waterville

Served during the Gulf War

Others respectfully remembered POW's or MIA's:

Howard David Stephenson and I grew up together on a farm, an apple orchard. He was MIA, shot down over Laos. His name is on the Wall in D.C. We're still waiting for him to come home.

Bruce W. Baker, Alexander

Served in Vietnam

I am voting in honor of Col. Donald G. Cook, USMC. He and I were POW's together in Vietnam, 1964-67.

According to an article enclosed by Mr. Crafts, "In December 1964, Cook was ordered to the Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. On December 31, 1964, Cook volunteered to conduct a search and recovery mission for a downed American helicopter and set off with the 4th Vietnamese Marines. Ambushed on their arrival at the site, Donald was wounded in the leg and captured while attempting to rally his Vietnamese allies.



Donald G. Cook

Cook was incarcerated in a prison camp near the Cambodian border and committed himself to providing inspiration for his fellow prisoners to endure and survive. He often surrendered his own rations and medicine to aid prisoners whose condition was more desperate than his own.

It was reported that he died in captivity from malaria on December 8, 1967. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in May, 1980, and the Aegis Destroyer DDG-75 built and launched in Bath, Maine, was named in his honor."

Charles Crafts, Livermore

Served in Vietnam

Edward Darcy is a POW/MIA from the Vietnam War. He has been missing since 1969.

Edith Dearborn, Mattawamkeag

I will be voting in honor of John Huntley, who was a POW and is still missing.

William B. Boone, Eastport

When I vote, I will do so in memory of the 15 Maine men listed as POW-MIA from Southeast Asia.

William A. Thomas, Lisbon Falls

Served in USAF in Vietnam

REMEMBER ME?

*Home, America, the land I long to see
To you, a Symbol of the free,
Do you Remember me?*

*It's been so long since I've seen home
I'm oh so far away...
Can't anyone hear me...please listen to me say.*

*Memories now are all I have to help me through each day
Yet in my heart, a spark of hope
I know you'll find a way.*

*Please bring me home, my journey's end
I know how hard it's been
But Please you must keep trying,
This battle YOU must win.*

*I did my part, I fought my best
So others could be free
My destiny lies in YOUR hands
Please Remember Me.*

*Signed,
Away, but never alone
Never forgotten
As Long as I have all of you.*

A POW-MIA

*Written by **Carole D. Thomas** in 1978*

*Responses like the following proudly pay tribute to **husbands** who served selflessly in Vietnam:*



I am voting in honor of my husband, Michael R. Brochu, Sr., who was a parachute rigger in the Navy. He volunteered for Vietnam and he would go again.

Nadine Brochu, Denmark

Michael R. Brochu, Sr.

My husband, J. Michel Patry, Sr., had a military career from 1965-1989. He served in Vietnam where he became disabled. Today he is an activist, a writer, a photographer, an educator, and an artist.

Evie Danika Patry, Lewiston

My husband, USAF Capt. Peter B. Smyth, served in the Vietnam Conflict. He was a dual-rated navigator/pilot whose mission was to refuel the fighters in mid-air. It is time that these Vietnam veterans are honored. These men served and sacrificed, some with their lives.

Evelyn Smyth, Rockland

I am voting in honor of my husband, Harry Gotham, who fought proudly and well for the freedom of other people in Vietnam from 1969-70.

Laurie Gotham, Buckfield



Harry Gotham



Everett A. Kaherl

My husband, Everett A. Kaherl, served in the Air Force for 4 years during the Vietnam conflict and loaded bombs on planes. He became a law enforcement officer when he left the military and has been in law enforcement since then. He has 5 children and 9 grandchildren. He is a true and honest patriot.

Connie Kaherl, Lisbon

My husband, Winfield "Jay" Sanborn, served in Vietnam as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne. He has two Purple Hearts and I am very proud to be his wife.

Brenda Sanborn, Springvale



Winfield "Jay" Sanborn

Vietnam Women's Memorial

On Veterans Day in 1993, a bronze statue of three women and a wounded soldier was dedicated on the Mall in Washington, D.C. This statue, in close proximity to the Vietnam Wall, was placed in honor of the 265,000 women who served during the Vietnam era. It

was a historic moment in time, for it was the first time a country has bestowed national recognition upon women who answered their country's call.



*Other responses warmly praised the contributions of **women military personnel** during this conflict:*

My wife, Melinda T. Goldberg, served 13 years in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, including 2 tours in Vietnam. She attained the rank of Major.

*Colonel Stuart E. Goldberg (Ret.), Portland
Served in Vietnam, 1971-72*

I am voting in honor of my sister, Capt. Roberta MacLean, who was an Army nurse. She served in the field in the 7th Surgical Hospital Unit.

*Ralph A. Mac Lean, South Portland
Served on USS Independence,
Vietnam, 1965*



Roberta MacLean



Susanne Clark

Sgt. Susanne Clark, LPN, was an Army nurse who served in Vietnam from December 1972 - February 1978. She is presently a staff nurse at the Greenwood Nursing Home in Sanford, where she is a wonderful nurse and co-worker.

James A. Walke, Springvale

Served as US Army Medic, 1979-89

1973 - 1975 – Peace talks resume in Paris on January 23, 1973. South Vietnamese communist forces, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the United States agree to a cease-fire. All U.S. Forces are to be withdrawn and all bases dismantled. The 17th parallel will remain the dividing line until the country can be reunited by "peaceful means."

But the fighting continues. Casualties are as high as they have ever been. In 1974 the North Vietnamese begin preparing for a major offensive while South Vietnam tries to hold the areas under its control. The North Vietnamese capture Phuoc Binh 60 miles north of Saigon in January 1975 and then begin a large-scale offensive in the central highlands in early March. The South Vietnamese military machine starts to unravel.

April 30, 1975 – The South Vietnamese government surrenders unconditionally. North Vietnamese tanks occupy Saigon. The last Americans leave Saigon, including 10 Marines from the United States Embassy.

July 2, 1976 – A military government is instituted and the country is officially united as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with its capital in Hanoi.

Veterans with connections to Maine served during these final years of the war:

I will be voting in honor of my son, a brother, and 2 brothers-in-law. My brother, Peter Potter, served on a carrier in Vietnam, and my 2 brothers-in-law, Bill and Herb Larck, each served 3 tours in the Navy in Vietnam. My son, Leslie B. Potter, served 6 years in the Army; he died April 17, 1988.

Tice L. Potter, Kittery Point

Served in the Navy in WWII

More than 47,000 Americans were killed in action. Nearly 11,000 died of other causes. More than 303,000 were wounded in the war.

I will be voting in honor of the 343 Maine boys that died in Vietnam.

Linwood E. Green, Orono

"Linwood Green created Mobile Memories to preserve the history of the Vietnam War as it affected Maine families, and to encourage veterans of the controversial war to come out with dignity. The traveling exhibit memorializes the 343 Maine boys that were lost in Vietnam between 1964 and 1975 and highlights the history of Maine's involvement with photos, letters, and memorabilia of our Maine Vietnam Veterans."

Canadian Henry L. Dew was hoping to become an American citizen by joining the U.S. Army. According to a local newspaper story, PFC Dew had enlisted in the U.S. Army in Jackman in January of 1965 and was sent to Vietnam in October. He was killed by sniper fire at the age of 21. He is much loved and often remembered. It was an honor to have served with him.

*Lester "Randy" Thompson, Houlton
Served during Vietnam, 1965-66*



Henry L. Dew

I am voting in honor of Lt. Comdr. John McConnell. Flying a Crusader jet from the *USS Saratoga*, he spared my life and the lives of 150 others by staying with his out-of-control jet headed for us on deck. He could have ejected but didn't. It cost him his life, leaving behind his wife and family. I am now 60 years old, and I will never forget what this man did. He was a true hero. I wish I could tell his wife and kids what a great man their loved one was.

*Charles Rideout, Bangor
Served during Vietnam era*

I am voting in honor of my cousin, Capt. John "Jack" E. Duffy, a USAF Academy graduate. Jack was shot down over Vietnam while flying an observation aircraft. His body was returned to Maine only a few years ago, long after the deaths of his father, mother, and one brother.

*Col. Richard D. Duffy, Belgrade
Serving in the Maine Army National Guard*

Dana Gerald was a grade school and high school buddy who was killed in Vietnam.

*Frederick W. Naborowsky, Vassalboro
Served in Vietnam, USAF (Ret.)*

I am voting in honor of Bob Hauser. He was the first friend of mine that died in Nam.

*Ray Weatherby, Rockland
Served in Vietnam*

I am voting in honor of my neighbor, Leon Poland Jr. He and I were together for the last time in California when both of us were heading overseas.

*Charles A. Lowe, Bryant Pond
Served in Vietnam, 1968-69*



Leon Poland, Jr.



Leon Poland, Jr.

My half-brother, PFC Leon L. Poland, Jr., was a Marine from Woodstock, Maine, killed at Monkey Mountain near DaNang, Vietnam, on March 26, 1967. He was hit by a land mine while on patrol guarding an Air Force radar site.

Hazel R. Dillingham, South Paris

About 900,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops were killed. An unknown number were wounded. More than 1,000,000 North and South Vietnamese civilians were killed during the war.

The cost of the war is estimated at \$200 billion.

I am honoring my brother-in-law, Ronald (Charles) Ouellette, who served in the Army during Vietnam. He returned home a doomed man with serious flashbacks. He passed April 26, 2000. He was 48.

*Joseph A. Desrochers, Lewiston
Served in Vietnam*

I am voting in honor of Larry Don Knippel. We went to NCO school together, roomed together at Ft. Hood, and I spent 3 days at his house before going to Vietnam together. He was killed on 3-13-70, but I didn't find that out until the last day of my first tour.

*Charles M. Torno, Lebanon
Served in Vietnam, 1969-71*

I am a 40% disabled service-connected veteran. Thank you for this program to honor veterans.

*Russel S. Herbert, Portland
Served in Vietnam*



Michael Gourley

I am voting in honor of my brother, Michael Gourley, a Marine who served in Vietnam. He was wounded 3 times, once in the head, and received the Purple Heart and medals for sharpshooting. He came home, but in a few years he committed suicide. He fought for his country as hard as he could.

Charlotte Stewart, Wellington

Evident throughout the responses about Vietnam veterans are compelling and unforgettable examples of heroism, dedication, and honor:

I am voting in honor of my brother, Edwin S. Dana, Sr. He served in the military for 28 years, including 3 tours in Vietnam in order, as he says, "to help my country and the buddies that I left behind."

Geneva Moulton, Bar Mills

My brother, Greg Tuholski, was drafted into the Army and killed in Vietnam.

Gerry Tuholski, Holden

My husband, Gerry Tuholski, joined the Air Force immediately after his brother Greg was killed in Vietnam.

Susan Tuholski, Holden

Thank you from all of us with hearts for the hurting. When we vote, we will be voting in honor of all hospitalized veterans and all homeless veterans.

We give them value by remembering.

Lois Merrill, Kennebunk

Willis Merrill, Kennebunk

Served in Vietnam

Three Maine Medal of Honor Recipients from Vietnam Conflict

Sergeant Brian L. Buker, of Benton, served in the U.S. Army, Detachment B-55 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty," at Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam, 5 April 1970. "Sergeant Buker distinguished himself while serving as platoon adviser of a Vietnamese mobile strike force company during an offensive mission. Sergeant Buker personally led the platoon, cleared a strategically located and well guarded pass, and established the first foothold at the top of what had been an impenetrable mountain fortress...As a direct result of his heroic actions, many casualties were averted, and the assault of the enemy position was successful. Sergeant Buker's extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon him, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Specialist Fourth Class Thomas J. McMahon, who entered the military in Portland, served in the U.S. Army, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Brigade, American Division. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously by distinguishing himself while serving as medical aidman with Company A in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. "When the lead elements of his company came under heavy fire from well fortified enemy positions, 3 soldiers fell seriously wounded. SP4 McMahon, with complete disregard for his safety, left his covered position and ran through intense enemy fire...He fell mortally wounded before he could rescue the last man. SP4 McMahon's undaunted concern for the welfare of his comrades at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Sergeant Donald S. Skidgel, of Caribou, served in the U.S. Army, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Division. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously for distinguished service as a reconnaissance section leader in Troop D near Song Be, Republic of Vietnam on 14 September 1969. "On a road near Song Be in Binh Long Province, Sergeant Skidgel and his section with other elements of his troop were acting as a convoy security and screening force when contact occurred with an estimated enemy battalion concealed in tall grass and in bunkers bordering the road...His selfless actions enabled the command group to withdraw to a better position without casualties and inspired the rest of his fellow soldiers to gain fire superiority and defeat the enemy. Sergeant Skidgel's gallantry at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Additional Tributes Submitted Online

Tribute to my brother, Ollie Olsson:

My brother served in Vietnam as a Sergeant with the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a Combat Veteran and a Disabled Veteran. He was in Dong Ha, Northern I Corp from April 68 -May 69. He received 10 ribbons and medals for his service and is 100% disabled service connected. He is part of a Maine family who has always stood by the Veterans. My Dad, Orville "Swede" Olsson, was in the Army in World War II as a Sergeant in the Army in the European Theater. My Mom, Mary "Mame" Olsson was a Past State President of the American Legion Auxiliary and held many Legion Auxiliary National offices, serving the Veterans of Maine. I salute the Olsson's family service to Maine and the Nation in defending our freedom. Semper Fi to my Olsson family.

Joyce Olsson Pinkham, Brunswick, Maine

Tribute to my brother, Philippe A. Michaud:

This tribute is in honor of my brother Philippe. He has served our country for 30 years. He is now retired but still works for the Army under a civilian contract. He and his wife now live in Stafford, VA.

Marie Pelletier, Fort Kent

Tribute to my husband, Francis C Soares III:

Frank has served his country for over 20 years. He is a military retiree as well as being active in the veteran community. He was Director of Maine Veteran Services for almost eight years and he was appointed by President Clinton to the Board of Directors of the National Veterans Development Corporation. He is "true soldier" in every sense of the word. I honor him and every American soldier for their service.

Leslie Soares, China

Tribute to my brother, David W. Stuart Jr.:

A U.S. Marine, no longer available to us to cast his own vote.

Jeanne M. Cameron, Merrill, Maine

Tribute to my boss, Evan Plourde:

Evan served in the US Marine Corp. He truly knows the sacrifice our soldiers make as he lost his brother to war. He helps veterans everyday as a "claims specialist" with the Maine Veteran Services. He is one "Marine" that deserves to be honored!

Leslie Soares, So China

Tribute to my deceased friend, Sgt. Harold Bennett:

Sgt. Bennett and I were captured together in South Vietnam on Dec 29, 1964 and in 1965 he was reportedly executed by the Viet Cong. He was elected into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame this year. He also received numerous medals. A very brave veteran to be remembered forever.

Charles Crafts, Livermore, ME

Tribute to my father, Tony Brissette:

My father served over 20 years in the Army and I understood early what dedication and loyalty was. My father was in the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict. He gave of himself to serve what he believed in and to also protect his beloved United States and his family.

Susanne Trumble, Danville, Maine

Tribute to my Brother, Michael Pipes:

Michael Pipes graduated from Island Falls High School in 1968. At the age of 18 he enlisted in the US Army. After boot camp he went to Saigon, Vietnam. Serving from 1968-1971. In 1973 he married Bonnie Brewer and was the father of Michael Jr. and Michelle. On Dec. 28, 1979 he died in a Mill accident in Patten.Me

Shirley Sides, Sherman, Maine

Tribute to my classmate, Chester Lee Hopkins:

Chester graduated with 26 of us from Woodstock High School in 1965. He joined the U.S. Marines shortly after graduation and was killed in Vietnam in the early part of 1967. He is sadly missed at every class reunion.

Linda Billings Tyler, Dixfield, Maine

Tribute to my husband, James E. Ryan, Jr.:

Served during Vietnam, Desert Storm and Noble Eagle and retired as Master Chief Petty Officer with 31 years of service.

Nancy Ryan, Hampden

Tribute to my Father, Larry Preston:

I am here to let people know about my dad. He fought in Vietnam to help us all. He lost both his legs and was in a wheel chair due to shrapnel. He fought the best he could and was one of the lucky guys to live. He was able to come home and he and my mother had 2 children my sister and I. I am so appreciative of my father, doing what he did while there, risking his life for the US. Unfortunately, he got cancer from Agent Orange. He passed away 12-15-98 at the age of 47. I miss my dad dearly.

Nicole (Preston) Libby, Caribou, ME

Tribute to my Brother, George C. "Oscar" Wallace:

Three times you went back to Nam ... most have forgotten but not me.

John Wallace, Limington

Tribute to my Dad and Grandfather, Ronald Gordon:

Dad and Papa we all love you forever.

April Gordon, Norridgewock

Tribute to my Father, Wendell "Skip" Overlock, Sr.:

My Dad served with the 608th Transportation Unit in Vietnam. I was not yet born but he was fighting so that I may live in freedom my whole life. I will always be thankful for the sacrifice he made for his country, to be away from his family and friends not knowing if he would ever see them again. I am proud and honored to call him "Dad" and am so thankful that he made it back to raise me, my sister, and brother. I love you Dad!

Joy Scovil, Bangor

Tribute to my Father, Wendell "Skip" Overlock, Sr.:

With great pride and as a small token of my appreciation, I am pleased to submit this tribute in loving honor of my Dad and also Vietnam veteran, Wendell ?Skip? Overlock, Sr., of Hermon.

Often times it is thought of but unfortunately left unsaid, but I want my father to know that I deeply admire him and am so proud of him for serving and standing up for our country especially during hard times in Vietnam. In my eyes, he?s a hero.

Although, I wasn?t born until some time after he came back home, I am very grateful for his service, as well as for those fighting today to protect our homeland. My heart goes out to the many families who their loved one never made it back home. We are so blessed that even with the multitude of deaths in Vietnam that God chose to spare my Dad?s life and send him back to us.

I love you, Dad!

Wendy Emerson, Hermon

Tribute to my Son, Wendell Overlock:

He is a good Christian man, a good grandfather and a loving son.

Esther Snow, Bangor, Maine

Tribute to my Brother, Wendell Overlock:

I am very proud of my brother for fighting for his country. We never knew if he was coming back to us or not. I am glad God allowed him to come home. He is a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. My prayers are for the men and women that have taken his place overseas. God bless all of them.

Estelle Kennedy, Holden, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Sgt. Clarence MacDonald:

Twenty-eight years in the army. Thank you and all veterans.

Douglas MacDonald, Tosham, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Wendell Overlock:

I'm writing in honor of my husband. He served during the Vietnam War. That war may be over but it will never be over for my husband. It left many wounds and scars, although not visible to the human eye they're in his heart and mind. It is only by his faith in God that he is able to bear this burden. He has a great love for his country and fellow soldiers. In spite of his PTSD he has become a great husband, father, and grandfather. We love him dearly. It is through my husband and men like him, past and present that our country enjoys the freedoms we do today. God bless them and may God bless America!

Proudly, Mrs. Joan Overlock, Hermon, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Llewellyn Clarence Bragdon:

My father served in Korea and Vietnam. In Vietnam he earned 2 Silver Stars, 3 Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. There was an article that ran in the local paper honoring my father in August 1966 for his heroic acts. He passed away in 1983 when I was 7 years old.

Jason S. Bragdon, Louisville, Kentucky

Tribute to my Brother, Martin Wagg:

In tribute to the time he served, the injury he has lived with and with love for all he has done and all he means to me. He will live on forever, in our hearts as a man who loved his country and gave of himself. Thank you for being my brother.

Marilyn Hutchins Aston, Litchfield, Maine

Tribute to my Son, William S. Williams:

Thanks for serving.

William S. Williams, Howland, Maine

Tribute to my Marine Brother, William "Smitty" Smith "WildBill":

With this Tribute and Honor to my Brother in Arms, WildBill, Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Frates Aeterni....."Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever"

Dave Haskell, Standish, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Ernest C. True:

Dear Dad, I just want you to know how very much I love you and how proud I am of you and all the service you have done for your family, community and country!

Dian, Winthrop, Maine

Tribute to my Grandfather, Galen Spencer:

In loving memory of our grandfather Galen Spencer who proudly served our country. Love, Ryan and Stephen Spencer

Madeline Spencer, Palmyra, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Forest C. Hodgkins:

A young man I only knew a few years but his friendship and memories as young men growing up on a farm live deep in my heart, 45 years later. His family were my mentors.

Roger T. Duval, Burnham, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Dana Richard Kelley:

In remembrance of Dana R. Kelley who proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He died when the AC-47 he was serving aboard was shot down in Vietnam on January 9, 1967 along with six other crewmen. He left behind three small children. Today they have grown into good citizens who realize the value of freedom.

Patricia McCurdy Kelley Townsend, Orange City, Florida

Tribute to my Father-In-Law, James C. Bachelder:

Time hasn't stopped although you are gone from our lives, with each beat my hearts takes...I think of you!

Shannon Bachelder, Oxford, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Michael K. Milton:

I am very proud of you Dad! Thank you for your service.

Maryanne Milton Aldrich, Plymouth, NH

Tribute to my Friend, Gary Gwozdz:

Gary was a compassionate person who was good with patients as well as friends. Gary was a respiratory specialist who attended combat medic training, respiratory school and civilian work with me. Can't think of anyone I'd trust more in a combat situation. God bless old friend - one day we will meet again.

Mike, New York City

Tribute to my Good Friend, Gary Gwozdz:

Gary Gwozdz was an Army trained respiratory technician who gave much of himself to his patients and his country. His life was taken by an impaired driver who risked Gary's life to satisfy his own selfishness.

Mike Pike, Bridgton, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Joseph Fortin:

I miss you Dad. There isn't a day that goes by that I do not think of you. We are going to have a new addition to the family. I wish you were here to enjoy the baby. Love your son Scott.

Scott Fortin, Ogunquit

Tribute to my Father, Edward Lake:

I would like to honor my father, Edward Lake. He has risked his life so that I could grow up to be the man that I am today. Thank you Dad.

Johnathan Lake, Bangor

Tribute to my husband, Milton J. Baird:

I am very proud of my husband. He served 2 tours in Vietnam and only came back with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I can live with that. He is now Commander of the DAV chapter in Lewiston. I'm very proud of him.

Judy Baird, Auburn, Maine

Tribute to my Brother's, Clyde E. Withee & Edward W. Withee:

I miss my Brother's each day, they paid the full price so we could be free in America, God Bless Them!

Arthur Withee, Fairfield, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Phillip Bryant:

Phillip Bryant HN/USN Fleet Marine Forces gave his life in the service of his country and the Marines who were in his care. We were shipmates at GLakes Hospital Corps Training Command. He was my friend.

Merrill Morris, Eastport, Maine

Tribute to my Cousin, James Small:

Jimmy when you were in Nam there was not a day that you were not in my thoughts. When I heard you were home it was up until then the happiest day in my life.

Marsha Marley, Portland, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Lester "Randy" Thompson:

Randy spent some time in Saigon. Randy was with the "BIG RED ONE". I was a hometown MP, we were friends, buddies and always will be. No matter where you are Randy, our time in Saigon will always be remembered.

Murray Boutilier, Houlton, Maine

Tribute to my father, Oscar U Adams Jr:

I am voting for my dad, who is my hero. He fought a good fight so you and me could have freedom, and when he came back he had very bad nightmares and extremely bad headaches ... I love and miss him.

Lisa Cyr, Richmond, ME

Tribute to my Dad, Ronald Gordon:

Dad thank you for serving our country and protecting us.

April Gordon, Norridhgewock, Maine

Tribute to my Father, William Scott:

I would like to honor my father for his time served in Vietnam 1968-1969. His bravery and strength through those difficult times made him an excelling soldier and he was proud to serve his country. He is still very proud and would serve his country again in a heart beat.

Heather Richardson, Buckfield

Tribute to my Husband, Richard E. Brown:

I want family and friends to know how proud I am of Richard. He has suffered greatly since his tour of duty with the US Marines, 1966-1970. He has survived it all and continues to cope. He has worked very hard to get to where he is today. Please support all our troops; you really do not know how much they need our support, especially when they return home. Learn from the Vietnam veterans.

Vickie G. Brown, Presque Isle, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Roy S. Bryant, Jr.:

Roy was assigned to an Air Force Special Operations Force Helicopter Gunship. Flew many sorties and received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Leta Bryant, Old Orchard, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Donald S. Skidgel:

I knew Donnie as a teenager. He did not seek glory and do things to bring attention to himself. He was truly a hero and his actions in Vietnam on one fateful day were truly deserving of the Medal of Honor. Thanks Donnie for the brief time that I knew you.

Ron Ready, Windsor, Maine

Tribute to my Uncle, Ronnie Blair:

My Uncle Ronnie fought as a US Army Special Forces Medic in Vietnam he was killed in 1967 long before I was born, but to this day he has affected a lot that I do. In 2005 I joined the US Army and went airborne soon after and was sent to Iraq in the fall of 2006. I wore my Uncles jump wings on my dog tags every day. I am sorry that I never had the chance to meet this man but to this day he is my hero and I try to live up to the things that he did.

Thomas Steeves, Mapleton, Maine

Tribute to my brother, Carl Getchell:

I thank my Brother for going to war and fighting for our country. He will always be my HERO!!!! LOVE DONNA

DONNA HART, AUGUSTA MAINE

Tribute to my Brother, Peter P. Basler:

My brother left college to join the Marines. Continued his education when he returned, being the son of a widow it would have made him exempt at the time. He is a brave man along with so many others.

Jeanette E. Bearse, Acton, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Ansel D. Smith, Sr.:

To my hero, I am thankful every day for my freedoms because of your sacrifices. You still battle emotional scars, but always know I will be forever by your side to help ease the pain and to tell you I love you.

Diane Smith, Ellsworth, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Charles Crafts:

Vietnam POW.

Juanita Crafts, Livermore, Maine

Tribute to my Brother, Richard S. Diffin Sr:

My big brother Richard was my best friend. We shared the same birthdate July 6 although there was eleven years difference in age we grew very close as the only siblings. He joined the U.S Navy with his best friend Sonny Moholland after high school. His entire life was the U.S, Navy and his family one daughter and two sons. He served both on shore and at sea during the Vietnam conflict and returned home. He finished his career as an instructor at the War College in Newport, RI. Retired home in Washington County before he died of complications resulting from a stroke. He was a good man, loved his children, grandchildren, and his country.

Gwen Clark, Robbinston, Maine

Tribute to my Father, James Mooney, Sr.:

To My father: who taught me the meaning of being a patriot and whom I miss dearly. He was my best friend and my hero.

James Mooney, Jr., Westbrook, Maine

Tribute to my Grandfather, Robert E. Foster:

I will be honoring my grandfather who I never met, he was killed in Vietnam on April 29, 1966. He is a true hero, he gave his life for the men he was protecting.

Lisa Palmer, South Paris, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Jim Palmer:

A friend who went through so much and still keeps a smile.

Kay Bond, Auburn, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Richard B. Philbrick:

I am proud of my dad for serving our wonderful country so that I may have freedom to vote, play, and worship in my church!!! We live in a bountiful nation that we are definitely free and we should not take that for granted!!!

Tina (Philbrick) Richard, Clinton, Maine

Tribute to my Adopted Father, Raymond Stewart:

Thank you for all that you did to serve this country. We love you!

Robert Miller, Bradford, Maine

Tribute to my Father, John M. Popp:

My father served in CU CHI, South Vientnam from June, 1969 to June, 1970. He is, and forever will be, my hero.

Jenny Skolfield, Standish, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Robert T. Hastings:

NAVY BEAR is my husband, he served honorably in the United States Navy from 1958-1983 advancing from Airman to Chief Warrant Officer, W4 and retired as a Navy Supply Corps Officer, LT rank. Served aboard USS SARATGO, USS RANGER, USS PHILLIPINE SEA, and a SUPPLY OFFICER at USNSGA Winter Harbor, ME, NAVSTA ADAK, NAVSTA SOUDA BAY, CRETE, and NAS BRUNSWICK, MAINE. REFER TO WEBSITES: <http://hastings-navybear.blogspot.com/> and TOGETHER WE SERVE for more details. GOD BLESS AMERICA and OUR FIGHTING FORCES.

Barbara Ann Hastings, Woolwich, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Keith Allen Jr.:

Keith was a classmate of my sister and I had the privilege of working with his dad. In fact Keith took my job at the Bank when I went off to the University of Michigan. Keith gave his life in Vietnam protecting all those things we cherish as Americans. He was an outstanding student and I am certain he was an exceptional soldier (Warrant Officer). He died piloting a helicopter in the country. I was serving at a Headquarters Command at Warner Robins AFB when I heard he had died. It was a rainy night in Georgia and I cried like a baby while walking aimlessly in the chilling rain remembering him. I thought of the last time I was with him which was in Maine prior to either of us enlisting in the service. I was giving him a test drive in my brother's Jaguar XK150 which he was interested in buying. It was such an inconsequential last meeting until I found out he had been killed in Vietnam. I may damn the War but I honor all those who gave their lives and all who served honorably. I plan to travel to Vietnam one of these days and expect to venture to the place where he died to honor his service and memory. God bless his family he left behind and the unrealized family he might have brought forth to this land had he not died so young. Hardly a day goes by that I do not think about his sacrifice

Stanley F. Watson, Presque Isle, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Robert L. Cunningham:

My Daddy served in the Navy valiantly during the Vietnam War. He was very involved with the POW/MIA vigils in Maine and was buried in his cammies that he wore to those vigils when he died April 16th, 2009. Thanks Daddy, for your service to our country and always taking care of us girls.

Beth Willis, Apex, NC

Tribute to my Friend, Jeffrey Harvey:

So very proud of you!

Jim Weatherhead, Limestone, Maine

Tribute to my Grandfather, James Glatfelter:

Even though my grandfather has suffered in a war, he still believes to live life to the fullest and protects his family.

Jamie Frost, Jay

Tribute to my Husband, Christopher Perkins:

For all that you endured in a War without thanks. You are courageous and strong and I appreciate your journey back from that experience. I love you!

Barbara Perkins, Palmyra, Maine

Tribute to my Brother, Richard Lee Staples:

He served on the USS Forrestal during the worst fire incident of 1968.

Carol M. Staples, Thomaston, Maine

Tribute to my Name on my POW bracelet, Markham Gartley:

As one of the first POW's released and the returning face of many American POW's by appearing on the cover of Newsweek, Lt. Markham Gartley deserves addition to this list. After coming home he continued to serve the state of Maine as Secretary of State. I remember my friend appearing at my front door in California with the Newsweek Magazine with such excitement that the fellow on my POW bracelet had come home alive. It was a moment of hope for all the boys over in Southeast Asia that they too may come home alive.

Vicki, Grenville, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, John A. Courant:

There couldn't be a more dedicated, patriotic, loyal U. S. Navy veteran than my husband. From the ten years he spent during Lebanon 1958, Cuban crisis, and Vietnam an injury during his service affected him the rest of his

life to date. He still has a fierce love of our Constitution and would still defend it with his life.

Janet M. Courant, Greene

Tribute to my Uncle, Thomas D. Bouchard:

I honor my uncle Thomas Bouchard. He was willing to give his life to save his comrades and to serve his country. May no one forget the sacrifices made by our Veterans!

Justin Cox,

Tribute to my Father, David M. Smith:

So you know that what you fought for was not in vein. Thank you for your service.

Kristy Smith, Cumberland, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Greg L. Monk:

Greg served 19 months in Vietnam and is proud of his service and he fully supports Veteran causes and his support of the Troops is unwavering.

Elizabeth Monk, Princeton, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Dorrance Marstaller:

I am voting in honor of Dorrance Marstaller who proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1967-1970 and was in Vietnam from May 1968 to May 1969. Thank you for your service!

Gloria Marstaller, Durham, Maine

Tribute to my Brother, Roy C. McEwen:

You never returned from the conflict; you never got to learn why you and the many others were even over there; and you never got the honor that you deserved for staying there when you could have come home. I have missed you since 1966..and now that I am the last in our immediate family alive, I want to put it in writing that I am very proud of you. I will miss you forever. Love, Your Little Sis

Clare McEwen, Bangor, Maine

Tribute to my Father, SFC Marvin Gene Sawtelle:

Thank you Dad for all that you do and have done for me and our Country. Thank you for your 21 years of service including your two years in Vietnam. Your dedication and willingness to keep our beautiful country we call "home" peaceful and safe is honorable. I love and respect you so much, Dad. Thank God for you.

Sandra Townsend, Machias, Maine

Tribute to my brave and honorable father, SFC Marvin Gene Sawtelle:

Your 21 years of service and your two tours of Vietnam make your family and your country proud. You speak of it humbly like it wasn't something that should be honored and remembered with great respect but in fact you deserve the highest ranks in honor and respect. If then, C.O. Colin Powell thought well enough of you to write a letter of recommendation for you than I think that you must have done wonderful and courageous things while you served. I know you don't talk about it much and I can understand that it was a difficult for everyone. Especially those who were away from their families for long periods of time but I just want to say thank you for the stories that you do tell us. They remind us that our freedom doesn't just come by right. People like you had to fight for us to make this country the way it is today. Thank you again, Dad. With Love and Respect, your daughter and grandchildren: Sandra, Dilon, Kienan, and Kailey. We love you.

Sandra Sawtelle, Machias, Maine

Tribute to my husband, Capt. George R. Briggs:

I am voting in honor and support of my husband, George R. Briggs, who flew helicopters in Vietnam.

Diane Briggs, Freeport, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Paul F. Icovitti:

My husband Paul Icovitti proudly served in Viet Nam during 1968/69 with the 11th Armored Cavalry HHT Company 2nd Squadron. Paul lived a good life as a husband, Dad, and Grampy until he passed away of Sarcoma due to Agent Orange January 2012. We miss him; his strong love and guidance. God Bless all of our brave veterans who give their all to our great country.

Barbara A Icovitti, York, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, John Robinson:

I am proud to know a true Green Beret who served and sacrificed for his Country, the U.S.A., in Vietnam, teaching them the ways of war.

Dennis Collins, Farmington, Maine

Tribute to my husband, Frank W. Danforth, III:

Firepower for Freedom

Karen Danforth, South Paris, Maine

Tribute to my Uncle, Robert M. Jones:

Thank you Uncle Mike, you never spoke of what you had to do, but we are very proud! You were very brave! Love and miss you very much!!! Love, Shawn, Belinda, Samantha and Sabrina.

Shawn Blanchard, Litchfield, Maine

Tribute to my Uncle, Rodney Giles:

I would like to make tribute to Rodney Giles of Garland Maine for his heroic service in Vietnam. I appreciate everyday he spent in Vietnam defending our country and proud to have him as my uncle!

Paul Curtis, Dexter, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Gerard J. Gaudet:

My father was an Army serviceman for almost thirty years of his life. He served through 3 periods of war and was proud to declare he was from Maine. He is buried in the New Mexico National Cemetery in Santa Fe New Mexico.

Jack Gaudet, Mexico, Maine

Tribute to my Grandfather, George Clayton Nelson:

Tribute to my grandfather who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was brave and dedicated during his military

career and earned many awards including the Bronze Star. The importance of his years of service and his love for the Air Force was apparent to everyone. He was respected and loved by many friends and family. He was loving grandfather and I miss him in my life.

Desiree Maxfield, Madawaska

Tribute to my Friend, USAF Academy classmate, Capt. John E. 'Jack' Duffy, USAF:

I am honoring Capt. Jack Duffy, USAF. Maine natives, Jack and I were Academy classmates (1968), but more than that, we were close friends. Through two years in the same cadet squadron, and overlapping pilot training classes, we enjoyed the many good times and endured the bad. The tough kid from Munjoy Hill was a 4-year wing boxing champ, and a true warrior. I took him to meet his flight to Viet Nam, and he was killed in his O-2 FAC aircraft April 4, 1970. His remains were recovered through an extraordinary effort by what is now the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Office (JPAC), in 1993, and we laid Jack to rest in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on October 18, 1996. We, his family and friends, owe JPAC a huge debt of gratitude for the closure we finally felt after more than 20 years.

Dennis McLain, Lt Col USAF (Ret.), Washington

Tribute to my Father, Issac Staples:

In honor of my father, He served in the Air Force, He died in 2013 from Agent Orange. I saw you in the eyes of the eagle. On my way to say good bye, We looked in each others Eyes and I knew you were flying again.

Heather Staples, Edgecomb, ME

Tribute to my Father, Richard C. Butts:

This man is one of the bravest men to serve his country as a Marine in the Vietnam War. He sustained several gun shot wounds and over 100 pieces of shrapnel throughout his body. He's a great father who taught our family about the history of the Vietnam War so that it never gets repeated again. My father has taken lives to survive and lost many close friends in Vietnam and to suicide when his buddies returned home who didn't receive the help the needed to treat there PTSD. Anyone who endures what my father has gone through is a HERO.

Richard B. Butts, Greene, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Edward J. Darcy:

CMSgt, Missing in Action.

Dale A. Tompkin, Akron, Ohio

Tribute to my Friend, Gary R. Huntley:

SP/4 Gary Joined the Army 2 years after his Marine brother died. Served 1967 - 1970 in Vietnam as a mechanic., stayed longer so others would not have to go over and replace him.

Linda May Stonier, Augusta, Maine

Tribute to my Friend, Raymond P. Cox:

I am voting for my Friend to Raymond, who died in action on November 16, 1967 at age 19. He was and always will be loved and remember for giving his life for all of us, so we could be free, friend, Maria Mazzei/Redden

Maria Redden, Cincinnati, Ohio

Tribute to my Husband, Larry J. Redden:

To the man I love, thank you so very much for serving are great county, from 1964-1968 you did two tours in Vietnam, I was so lucky to have you in my life. Thank you so very much, I love you, your Wife Maria Redden

Maria Redden, Cincinnati, Ohio

Tribute to my husband, Bert E. Budge:

RIP

Joyce Budge, Lowell, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, Douglas L Smith:

Left for Vietnam in the summer of 1971 leaving a wife and child at home to pray for his safe return. He was lucky enough to come home and raise a wonderful family. We are truly honored to have this man in our lives.

Angela Smith (wife of 45 years), Jay, Maine

Tribute to my Husband, David Grady:

Sailor, in special forces donated his time in building a park, writing grants, coaching kids, counseling veterans with PTSD and a fire fighter in Harmony. He never asked for anything but helped people to be better.

deb grady, Deep Run, North Carolina

Tribute to my Brother, Galen B. Owens:

Honoring my brother's service to his country, U.S. Army.

John Owens, Greenville, Maine

Tribute to my Father, SFC Edwin B. Ryder Jr.-deceased:

In 1968 Edwin was deployed to Vietnam, where he served as a platoon sergeant for the 59th Engineer Company. The 59th was responsible for land clearing and referred to themselves as "Ryder's Rangers". On August 31, 1969, Edwin was clearing land with a bulldozer when a land mine exploded, killing Edwin and three others in his platoon. At the time of his death, Edwin held the rank of sergeant first class.

Chris Ryder, Dexter, Maine

Tribute to my brother in law, Edward Pralicz:

Thank you for your service and sacrifice. We love and miss you.

laura pralicz, South Portland, ME

Tribute to my Friend, Frank Michalko:

Frank was a friend to us at the Dover-Foxcroft town office. He served our country in the Vietnam War. He recently passed away. We will miss him.

Dover-Foxcroft Town Office, Dover-Foxcroft

Tribute to my friend, James Bouchard:

A quiet man with a big heart.

Jack Norris, Wallagrass, ME

Tribute to my Uncle, Leo S Reny:

Uncle Steve was an incredible man. His love for his Country and family was immeasurable. His smile was infectious and he lived a life of helping others. Thank you for defending my freedom and for being the incredible, loving role model to those of us who were lucky enough to call you family. I love you and miss you Uncle Steve.

Linda M Case, Standish

Tribute to my Cousin, Richard C Dority:

I never got to meet you but your family will never forget you and maybe someday you will come home and the rest of the crew of The LCU-63.

Jesse James Farmer, Newport, Maine

Tribute to my My dad, Ronald Gordon:

My dad proudly served America and I'm honored to call my dad my hero for fighting for our freedom.

April Gordon, Waterville, Maine

Tribute to my Uncle, Richard Warren:

Dicky fought the Vietnam War his whole life. He was a kind and loving man that had a difficulty forgiving himself for the many lives he took during the conflict.

Celina D Gauthier, Auburn, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Keith Kennedy:

This vote is for you dad. I miss you. Thank you for fighting for my right to vote!

Kristy Kennedy, Buxton, Maine

Tribute to my My father, Gary A Sawyer:

A tribute to my father, my hero who served 2 tours in Vietnam and received a medal of honor and the purple heart.

Melissa Sawyer, Linneus

Tribute to my Brother-in-law, Russell Peterson:

Thank you Russell for your service and sacrifice for our freedoms.

Rosemary Page, Springvale, Me

Tribute to my Husband, Ronald Philip Bradford:

He was the man I admired most in my life, completely honest, unselfish, and the very best husband, father, brother, son and friend anyone could ever hope for. He paid the ultimate price. He will always be remembered and loved.

Katharine Bradford, Springfield

Tribute to my My Father, Richard S Pelletier:

To my amazing Daddy! My Hero!

Leslie Pelletier-Royer, Winslow

Tribute to my Brother, Bradford Scott Nickerson:

I vote in honor of my brother, Bradford Scott Nickerson. Brad was my hero. He was killed in action on 1 Sep 66 3 km SE of Tuy Loan Bridge at just 20 years of age.

Mark Nickerson, Searsport

Tribute to my Father, Paul R. Comeau:

I voted today to honor my father, Paul R. Comeau. He served two tours in Vietnam. I voted today, and in every election, to thank my father for the time and the innocence he sacrificed in Vietnam. Dad passed away this past August and I hope he always knew that he was our hero.

Daphne C. Comeau, Leeds, Maine

Tribute to my Father, Arthur W. Hollenbeck:

Forever in Our Hearts.

Ysanne Hollenbeck, York, ME

Tribute to my My Father , John James Goards :

To the strongest Man I know. You Served two tours in Vietnam and continued in civil service for our country, even though you were never thanked . You taught me to always be honest and never to look down on anyone. You wanted me to be a good person and walk the talk. You deserved to be honored and I never want you to be forgotten Daddy ! Mom ,John , Alexandra and I miss your laugh;and love and think about you every day even though the world keeps going without you. I hope in this small way you will finally be recognized for your dedication and service to our country and your family.

Kelly Margaret Goards , Waterville, Maine

Tribute to my Father, John James Goards:

To my Daddy .A man who taught me to not take myself to seriously. Who not only went once but twice to hell and back (Thanks Dad!) .The strongest man I knew that showed who he really was when he painted ,laughed and made sure I respected my mother. Who never judged anyone , and who suffered in silence...

Kelly Goards, Waterville , Maine

Tribute to my My Father, Wayne Cartier:

Thank you for showing me the way. I pray that God will grace me with the wisdom to serve the people of the great State of Maine in Augusta. All gave some, some gave all, I will always love you, I always have. Thank you for serving, it's my turn to step up.

Justin Cartier, Bangor, ME