

Vietnam War 50th Commemoration

Our opportunity to celebrate the Veterans' and Families' service and sacrifice

Welcome Home

TSgt. Charles A. Lawburgh Jr. served in two wars



Front row, Kneeling and Crouching (L to R) 1-Capt. Leo M. Basten; 2-Capt. William R. Casey; 3-Maj. Richard E. Morgan; 4-Maj. Norman D. Reid; 5-Maj. Clyde Sherrill; 6-Maj. Gene R. Tippy; 7-Maj. Herb Zumhingt; 8-LtCol. Warren Johnson; 9-Capt. Paul T. Cherenzia.
Middle row, (L to R) 1-Maj. Vernon L. Hoehn; 2-Capt. Howard E. Mangin; 3-Unknown; 4-SSgt. George E. Dragoo; 5-MSgt. Owen D. Stickles; 6-Sgt. James R. Covay; 7-Sgt. Jeffrey M. Smith; 8-Sgt. Roger D. Stephens; 9- Unknown; 10- TSgt. Herbert Loveless; 11-Sgt. Jerold E. Thomas; and 12-LtCol. Earl W. Scott
Back row, (L to R) 1-Sgt. Gregory L. Terral; 2-Sgt. Paul S. Wing; 3-Unknown; 4-Sgt. John H. Sturm; 5-Sgt. John Temoney; 6-Sgt. James E. Mattison; 7- **TSgt. Charles Lawburgh**; 8-SSgt. Squire Riley; 9-Unknown; 10-Sgt. James L. Farrell; 11-Sgt. Donald E. Brogan; and 12-SSgt. Ronald Penrose.

Charles A. Lawburgh Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served in the 123rd Naval Construction Battalion in Midway during WWII. He was a member of the U.S. Air Force for 25 years and served his country again in Vietnam. From 1971 to 1973 he was enlisted in the Army National Guard. He was the recipient of the Air Force Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross.

**4413th CCTS Flight Crew Class Photos
Lockbourne AFB, Ohio 1968**

**Submitted by Mr. Lawburgh's daughter
Mary Ellen Woolum**

Did you know?

The United States' military involvement in the Vietnam War began in February 1961 and ended in May 1975. During that time, approximately 2.7 million Americans served in Vietnam and more than 58,000 lost their lives, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. America was not able to stop the Tet Offensive in 1968. It would take two more assaults before the U.S. and South Vietnamese would retake lost territory. However, the victory was short-lived. When the 1973 Paris Peace Accords were signed, the North Vietnamese refused the last conditions which required releasing civilian detainees and allowing free and democratic elections in South Vietnam. The refusal prompted an armed insurrection in April 1975, and Saigon, the South capital, fell to Northern forces and was renamed Ho Chi Minh City. The U.S. then withdrew from the country. TF233776

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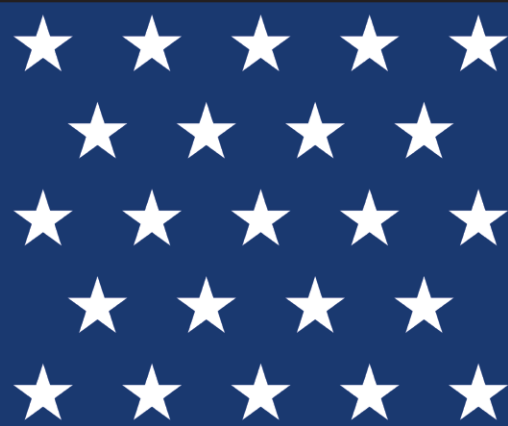


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Vietnam War 50th Commemoration

Welcome Home
SGT. Richard C. Black
Cross Plains



Sgt. Black served from 1965-1968 in the Air Force. He was in Binh Thuy Air Base, Vietnam 1967-68.

Thank You

Welcome Home
Jackie Wiley
Holton



Jackie Wiley served in the Navy from 1965 to 1979. He served three tours in Vietnam as a metalsmith, working maintenance on aircraft.

Thank You

Welcome Home
CPL. Glenn Steele
Versailles



Cpl. Glenn Steele, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Steele of Versailles was wounded in action in Vietnam on January 20 and taken to the Great Lakes Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, IL.

Cpl. Steele is a graduate of South Ripley High School and served with the Third Marine Division in Vietnam for nine months before he was injured.

It was reported that Cpl. Steele had a broken right leg and a piece of shrapnel in his left hand and near his right eye. He was wounded by a land mine. He served from 1967-1969 in the Marines.

Ralph Steele, a brother to Glenn, also was serving at the same time in Vietnam.

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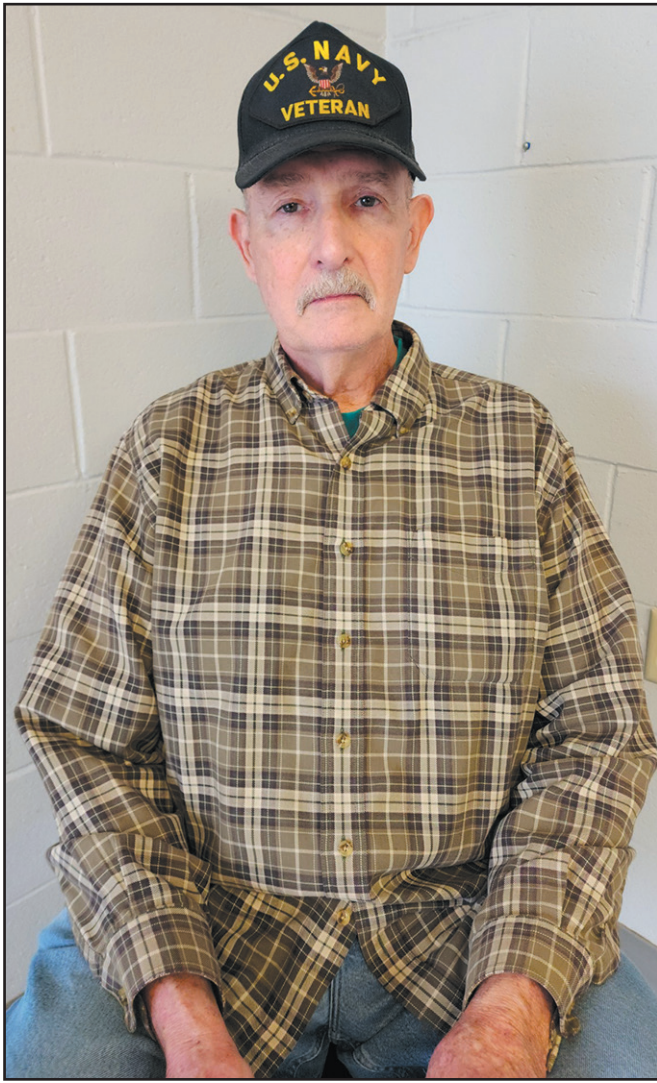
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Welcome Home

E6 Thomas N. Taylor
Versailles



E6 Thomas N. Taylor served in the US Navy from 1970-1982.

Thank You

Welcome Home

Vernon Johnson Jr.
Columbus



Vernon Johnson Jr. served in the US Army from January of 1969 to November of 1971. He served in Vietnam for 18 months.

Thank You

Welcome Home

CPL. Ken Fairchild
Batesville



Corporal Ken Fairchild served in Vietnam June 1966-September 1968 in the Marine Corps Pendleton Marine Reserve.

Thank You

Facts about the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War is among the most complex conflicts in world history. The war ended in 1975 when South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam, but the effects of the conflict continue to reverberate today, nearly half a century later.

In March 1965, American President Lyndon Johnson made the decision to send U.S. combat forces into battle in Vietnam. Ultimately more than 2.5 million American troops would serve in South Vietnam alone. Since President Barack Obama signed a proclamation in 2012, Americans have commemorated the sacrifices its military personnel made during the war by celebrating Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29 (the holiday would be signed into law in 2017). One way to let Vietnam veterans know those sacrifices have not been forgotten is to learn about the war. Such knowledge can inspire a greater appreciation of the cost of the war on the service members who fought it.

- Though President Johnson ordered combat troops into Vietnam in 1965, the conflict between North and South Vietnam began much earlier than that. North Vietnamese fighters began helping South Vietnamese rebels in 1954, marking a start to the conflict.
- American involvement in combat began even before President Johnson sent troops to Vietnam in 1965. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. combat involvement is now recognized to have begun on January 12, 1962, which marks the launch of Operation Chopper. That operation required U.S. Army pilots to airlift more than 1,000 South Vietnamese soldiers to an area west of Saigon to capture a territory that was being held by communist fighters.
- More than 58,000 American military personnel lost their lives as a result of the Vietnam War.
- Data from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency indicates that, as of April 2021, 1,584 Americans lost

in the Vietnam War remain unaccounted for. The vast majority of unaccounted military personnel were lost in Vietnam, though hundreds were lost while serving in Laos, Cambodia and China.

- The number of U.S. troops in Vietnam peaked in April 1969. By that point, the U.S. government had deployed 543,000 troops to Vietnam.
- The last American ground troops left Vietnam on March 29, 1973. Fighting between the North and South Vietnamese would continue for two more years, but the United States would not return to Vietnam. TF223961



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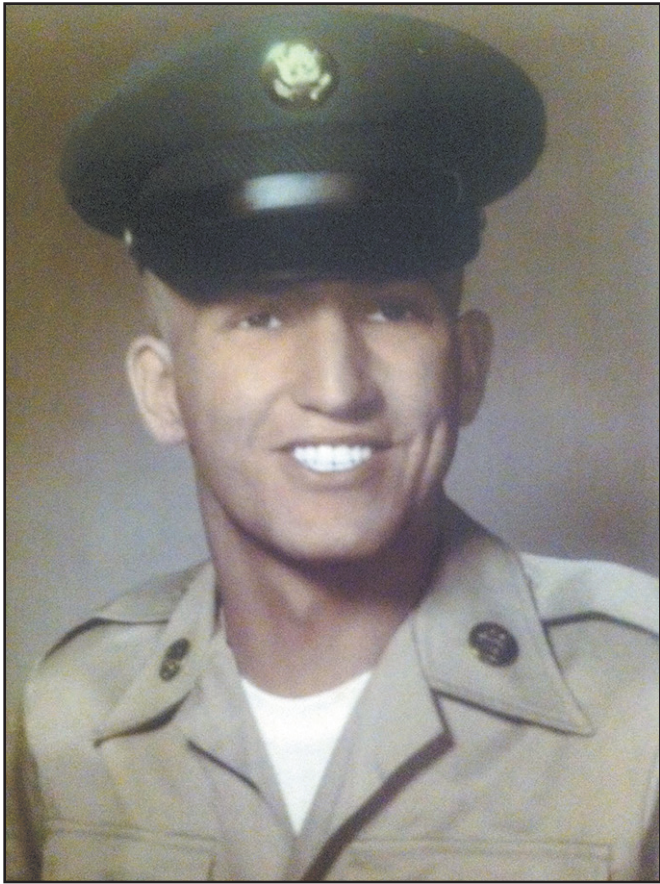
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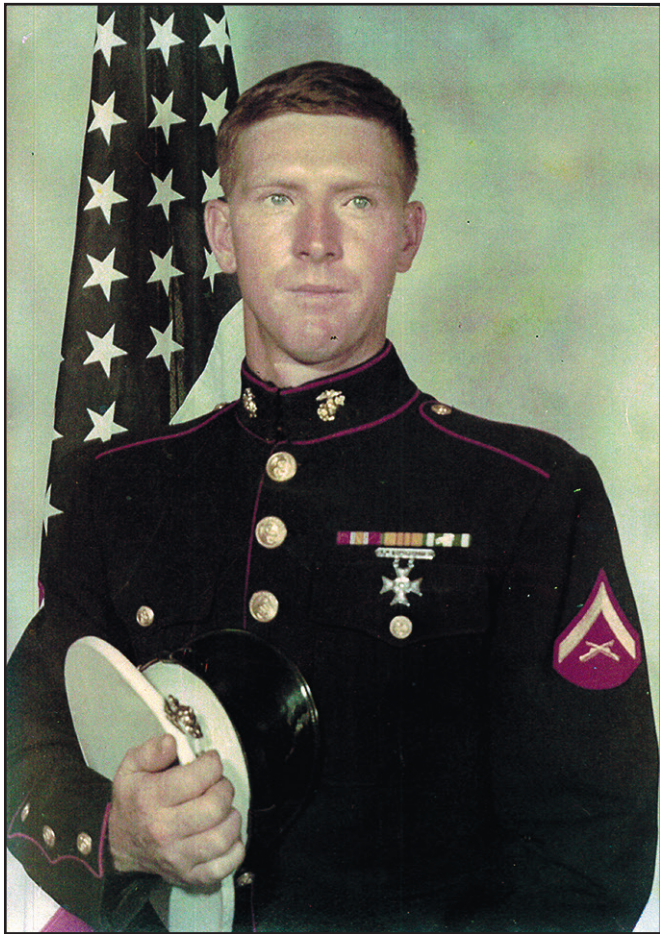
Welcome Home
Terrance N. Yeager
Morris



Terrance N. Yeager served from September 7, 1967 to May 26, 1970. He served in Vietnam for 1 year, 7 months, and 28 days.

Thank You

Welcome Home
E4 Don Bush
Holton



Don Bush served in the USMC from 1969-1973. He and wife, Sandy, have three sons: Donald, Daniel, and David, and 11 grandchildren.

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Our opportunity to celebrate the Veterans' and Families' service and sacrifice

Welcome Home
Thomas Joseph Tekulve
Batesville



YN3Thomas Joseph Tekulve served in the US Navy in Vietnam in 1966. He was there six months.

Thank You

Welcome Home
SGT Melvin L. Pettit
Versailles



Sgt. Melvin L. Pettit served in the US Army from 1968-1970. He and wife, Lois, have three children: Brad Pettit, Brian Pettit, and Melanie Wiedeman. They now reside in Cleves, Ohio.

Thank You

How to honor Vietnam Veterans

Each year on March 29, the United States honors the brave individuals who fought in the Vietnam War. Supporting National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a worthy effort that can send the right message to veterans who sadly were not always met with open arms when they returned home.

According to the U.S. Army Center for Military History, veterans of the Vietnam War represented nearly 10 percent of their generation. In recognition of those veterans' efforts and sacrifice, in 2012 President Barack Obama signed a presidential proclamation designating March 29 Vietnam War Veterans Day, and the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was subsequently signed into law by President Donald Trump in 2017.

In recognition of the significance of honoring the many brave individuals who served in the Vietnam War, communities can embrace these suggestions for honoring Vietnam veterans.

- Plan a commemorative event. An annual community-wide commemorative event can serve as a great way to honor individuals who served in Vietnam and let them know their efforts are appreciated and not forgotten. Events can highlight local veterans who served in Vietnam, including those who have passed away as well as those who are still alive.
- Prioritize veterans' rights. The organization Vehicles for Veterans notes that support for policy makers and organizations that fight for veterans' rights can ensure more veterans have access to services they need and benefits they've earned. This can be especially valuable for Vietnam veterans, the majority of whom are seniors and in need of help.
- Support the establishment of a public memorial or memorials. A public memorial or a series of memorials honoring locals who lost their lives in the war or have passed away since returning home can be a great way to remember

both deceased and living veterans. For those veterans who are deceased, a public memorial like a commemorative brick or a dedicated, inscribed park bench ensures their sacrifices and bravery live on for years to come. Surviving veterans also can take solace from such memorials, knowing that their own sacrifice and bravery has been highlighted and honored.

- Invite veterans to share their stories. Communities can sponsor oral history projects and/or host public speaking forums that invite Vietnam War veterans to share stories of their service. Such endeavors can prove cathartic for veterans of the Vietnam War and also ensure the generations that come behind them, including their children and grandchildren, have first-person accounts of a deadly and costly conflict that lasted for two decades.

Efforts to honor veterans of the Vietnam War can ensure the bravery and sacrifices of these individuals is never forgotten. TF233792



Batesville American Legion Post 271

Thank you for your service in Vietnam War



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