

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Office of the National Chaplain

Taps

March/April 2009

JOHN RICHARD AYERS – Died Wednesday, October 8, 2008 in Akron, Ohio at the age of 67. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born April 10, 1950 in Ohio. He is survived by his wife LaVerne Ayers, of the home. He served in the United States Army with service in the Vietnam War and retired at the rank of E-7, Sergeant First Class. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cuyahoga Falls Chapter #717**.

WILLIAM JAMES “Bill” BABCOCK - Died on Friday, December 19th in Wakefield, Rhode Island at the age of 64. The cause of death is unknown. He was born June 8, 1944 in Peacedale, Rhode Island. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Wakefield Chapter #325**. Funeral service Tuesday 11 IS at the AVERY-STORTI Funeral Home, Wakefield. Visiting hours, Monday 5-8 PM.

LARRY G. BEMIS - Died Monday, September 1, 2008 at his home in Excelsior Springs, Missouri at the age of 61. The cause of death is unknown. He was born July 7, 1947 in Antigo, Wisconsin. In accordance with the family's wishes, cremation services are private. He served in the United States Army and was a Vietnam War veteran from 1969 to 1970. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kansas City Chapter #317**. Arrangements: Polley Funeral Home, Excelsior Springs

JOHN JOSEPH BILOVECKY – Died Thursday, December 11, 2008 in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 31, 1928 in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania to the late Joseph and Mary Danyo Bilovecky. He is survived by his wife, Anna, of the home; five daughters and two sons-in-law, Wanda Bilovecky Toby Wise, Tonia and Felicia and Danny Cox, all of Lawton, Janet Dexter, of Kansas City, Kansas and Sonya Bilovecky, of Texas; four grandchildren and their spouses, D’Esirae and Rodney Schneider, Jeremy Wise and Derek Wise, all of Lawton and Andrew Dexter, of Kansas City, Kansas; one great-granddaughter, Penelope Rose Schneider, and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Helen and Claudie Romanini and Evelyn and Eddie Oros, all of Ohio. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by two daughters, Kathryn and Evelyn Bilovecky and several brothers and sisters. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Holy Family Catholic Church with Father Kirk Larkin as Main Celebrant. Interment with full military honors was in the Fort Sill National Cemetery with Deacon Jim Coe, officiating.

SIDNEY C. BOOTY, JR. - Died Wednesday, January 7, 2009 in Longview, Texas at the age of 64. The cause of death is unknown. He was born December 14, 1944 in Longview. Funeral services were at 11:00 AM on January 15, 2009, at the Parkview Baptist Church, with the Rev. J. C. Watkins, officiating. Cremation arrangements are by Turner Brothers. Mortuary. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Longview Chapter #987**. He was a Baptist. Survivors include his wife, Dabbie Booty; sons, James E. Alford and Curtis Newhouse; brothers, James E. Lee, Johnny Lee, Willie Booty and Lucilia Booty; and sisters, Cora Booty and Martha Johnson. A private viewing for the family will be at the funeral home.

RONALD WAYNE BOWLIN – Died recently in 2008 in Savannah, Missouri at the age of 68. The cause of death is unknown. He was born March 30, 1940. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Missouri**.

CHESTER BOUGHAN – Died Saturday, December 1, 2007 in Cheboygan, Michigan at the age of 83. The cause of death is unknown. He was a *Life Member* of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Cheboygan Chapter #274**.

CHARLES L. “Chaz” BRIDENBAKER – Died Monday, July 12, 2004 in Amherst, New York at the age of 56. The cause of death was lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Linda, of the home. He served in the United States Army during the 1968 TET Offensive. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lockport Chapter #268**.

JAMES FRANCIS “Jim” BRIDGES - Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, after a courageous battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – Lou Gehrig’s Disease. He was 64 years of age. He was born May 28, 1944 in Saint Louis, Missouri. Beloved husband of Beverly Bridges (nee Seibert); dear father of Jennifer (Bruce) Major and Jim Bridges, Jr.; dear Papa of Madison Lynn Major; dear brother-in-law of Gary Seibert, S.J. and Andrea (Dan) Walters; dear uncle and friend. 1LT Bridges, USA served as a combat helicopter medic with the 21st Medical Evacuation Battalion, 23rd Infantry 'Americal' Division from August, 1969 through August, 1970 in the vicinity of Kham Duc, Republic of Vietnam. He was twice awarded the Bronze Star Medal (with Combat V) and the Purple Heart Medal. A special thanks to Pathways Community Hospice. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Missouri**. Funeral Mass will be Monday, 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Kirkwood. Interment Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Visitation Sunday 4-8 p.m. at BOPP Chapel, 10610 Manchester Road in Kirkwood. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Salvation Army.

K. C. BRIMER – Died Tuesday, November 11, 2008 in Garden City, Michigan at the age of 60. The cause of death was chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder. He was born March 7, 1948 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He served In the United States Army with a tour in Vietnam from August 1968 to July 1969. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528**.

JON NEIL BRINKLEY – Died recently in 2009 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 62. The cause of death is unknown. He was born April 28, 1946. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Indianapolis Chapter #295**.

HENRY R. “Hank” BROCKMAN, JR. – Died Thursday, January 8, 2009 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin at the age of 69. The cause of death is unknown. He was born December 15, 1939 to the late Henry R. Brockman, Sr. and Susan (née Stieber) Brockman. He married Nancy Kacmarynski on June 24, 1961 at Saint Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Brillion, Wisconsin. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his grandchildren; his brother and sister-in-law, John and Esther Brockman, of Nashville, Tennessee and many nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam-era. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Sheboygan Chapter #618**. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Church in Sheboygan.

JOHN W. BRYANT – Died Friday, November 21, 2008 in Junction City, Kansas at the age of 66. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Supply, North Carolina on October 11, 1942. He is survived by his wife, Frances Bryant, of the home. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1967. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Junction City Chapter #344**. Funeral services were conducted in the Ward Chapel AME Church with the Pastor Viola Jones, officiating. Interment was in Highland Cemetery with the Fort Riley Honor Guard serving as pallbearers.

EUGENE BUFORD, JR. - Died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Monday January 26, 2009 after a battle with bladder cancer in Spring Valley, New York. He was 62 years of age. He was born August 1, 1946. Eugene has been a Spring Valley resident since he was 14 years old. He graduated from Spring Valley High School in 1966. He served his country proudly in the United States Army as a 173rd Airborne for 2 tours in Vietnam. Eugene had a 2nd black belt and was an instructor in Karate. Eugene is survived by his wife Helen, son Christopher, daughters Kathleen Buford, and Darlene Nash, grandson Christian Garfield Gordon, and his sisters, Victoria Ector, Carletta Phinney and Debbie Mitchell. He is also survived by nieces, nephews and their children and grandchildren. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – New City Chapter #333**. Family will receive friends on Wednesday 7-9PM and Thursday 2-4 & 7-9PM at Higgins Funeral Home New City, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday 10AM St. Joseph's Church Spring Valley, NY. Interment to follow at Fred Loescher Veteran Cemetery Monsey, NY. Donations can be made to VVA Chapter 333, P.O. Box 243, New City, NY 10956 or United Hospice of Rockland 11 Stokum Lane New City, NY 10956 or American Cancer Society 1 Executive Blvd, Suffern, NY 10901. MICHAEL J. HIGGINS FUNERAL SERVICE 321 South Main Street New City, NY 10956 845-634-6110.

VIOLET KATHRYN “Honey” BAUCOM BRABHAM-BURGESS – Died Tuesday, December 9, 2008 in Texarkana, Texas at the age of 88. The cause of death was natural causes. She was born October 29, 1920 in Frisco, Texas. She is survived by two daughters, Nelda Jean Robertson, of Wake Village, Texas and Billie Bailey, of Independence, Kansas; two grandsons, Scott Edward

(Melinda) Fletcher, of Double Oaks, Texas and Bret Waylon Bailey, of Independence, Kansas; two granddaughters, Robin Leigh (Greg) Smith, of Hurst, Texas and Jeanne Lynn Bybee, of Austin, Texas; four great-granddaughters; two great-great-grandsons; one great-great-granddaughter; one brother and sister-in-law, Emmett and Karyn Baucum, of New Boston, Texas, and; one sister-in-law and her husband, Eloise and Wayne Graham. She was a charter member of the First United Methodist Church in Hooks, Texas. She was a member of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Texarkana Chapter #278**. Graveside services were conducted in the Rose Hill Cemetery with Brother Dudley Chikis, officiating.

RAYMOND L. BURNS – Died Thursday, December 11, 2008 in Texarkana, Arkansas at the age of 74. The cause of death was a massive heart attack. He was born January 11, 1934 in Texarkana. He is survived by his wife, Nelwyn Burns, of the home; two sons and daughters-in-law, Tommy and Tammie (Musak) Burns, of Longview, Texas and Justin and Christine Burns, of Dallas, Texas; three daughters and sons-in-law, Jacqueline and Calvin Smith, of Texarkana, Marilyn and Lance Fenney, of Longmont, Colorado and Valerie and Billy Martin, of Allen, Texas; one sister and brother-in-law, Nellie and Les Schanfish, of Moline, Illinois; 14 grandchildren; one great-grandchild, and; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Air Force for 26 years and retired at the rank of Master Sergeant (E-8) with service in the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of the Billy T. Norton VFW and the American Legion Post #2558. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Texarkana Chapter #278**. Funeral services were conducted at the East Memorial Chapel-Downtown with Deacon Joe Bruick, officiating. Interment was in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas with full military honors.

WILLIE R. BYINGTON – Died in November 2008 in Kingsport, Tennessee at the age of 64. The cause of death was cancer. He was born September 12, 1944 in Kingsport. He served in the United States Marine Corps with a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968. He was a *Charter Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kingsport Chapter #979**.

RONALD A. CARTMELL – Died Wednesday, July 16, 2008 in Youngstown, Ohio at the age of 64. The cause of death was heart disease. He was born August 9, 1944. He is survived by Julia Davis of Leetonia, Ohio. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Poland Chapter #135**.

MARILYN CHRIS CASWELL – Died Wednesday, January 14, 2009 in her home in Fort Meade, Maryland at the age of 57. She was formerly a 2-year resident of Glen Burnie, Maryland and previously a 15-year resident of Annapolis, Maryland. She was born Nov. 10, 1951 in Utica, NY to the late Edward and Mary Naumanuf. She worked for the Military Clothing store on Ft. Meade. Mrs. Caswell was a very active member of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Annapolis Chapter #712**. She enjoyed traveling and especially enjoyed being with her family and grandchildren. She was preceded by one son, Kenneth Bradford Caswell. She is survived by her husband, Robert A. Caswell; two daughters, Denise Marie Williams and Cheryl Ann Caswell, both of Brooklyn; two sons, Robert Allen Caswell, Jr. of Lancaster, Calif. and Joseph Skane Caswell of Great Lakes, Ill; one sister, Danita Kuehr of Louisville, Ky.; One brother, John

Naumanuf, San Diego, Calif.; and 6 Grandchildren. Visitation is Mon. Jan. 19, 2 to 4 p.m. & 6 to 8 p.m. at the Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A. 1411 Annapolis Road, Odenton. Funeral Mass: Tues. Jan. 20, 10 a.m. at Ft. Meade Post Chapel. Interment in Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Crownsville.

JOHN P. CLOSE – Died Friday, December 26, 2008 at the age of 63. The cause of death is unknown. He is survived by his son, Craig Close. He served in the United States Navy from 1964 to 1969 on the SS-311 Archerfish and CVN-65 Enterprise. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter #820**.

GARY A. COOMES - Died Saturday, January 17, 2009, at Saint John's Medical Center, following an extended illness. He was 56 years of age. He was a resident of Anderson, Indiana. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 7, 1952, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Gary was a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He was self-employed in the home security business until ill health forced him to retire. He moved to Anderson in 2004, where he lived and loved the country life. He loved to collect cars and spent many great times with family and friends at car shows. He was a very patriotic man and was proud of the time he spent in Vietnam. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Indianapolis Chapter #295**. Gary is survived by his wife, Renee (Willoughby) Coomes; two daughters, Valarie (husband, Aaron) Schultz of Illinois and Julie Clagg of Indianapolis; three stepsons, Brian Bohall of Greenwood, Joshua (wife, Danielle) Castor of Anderson, and Jared (wife, Michaellea) Castor of Anderson. He was a beloved Papaw to eight grandchildren, McKenna, Jessica, Skyler, Gavin, Grant, Sydney, McKenna and Noah. He is also survived by a special dog, Shelby; and many much-loved friends and neighbors. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, at Scott E. Hersberger Funeral Home, 1010 N. Main St., Lapel, officiated by Pastor Brad Storm. Burial will follow at Brookside Cemetery, Lapel, where Lapel American Legion Post 212 will conduct military graveside rites. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Stepping Stones for Veterans, 332 W. 11th St., Anderson, IN 46016, or Vietnam Veterans of America, 8605 Cameron St., Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

DEAN M. COWLEY, JR. – Died recently in 2008 in Smith River, California at the age of 62. The cause of death is unknown. He was born February 20, 1946. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Brookings Chapter #757**.

RICHARD SCOTT DANNER – Died recently in 2009 in Gibsonsonburg, Ohio at the age of 57. The cause of death is unknown. He was born July 27, 1951. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Fostoria Chapter #440**.

MARIE L. D'ELIA – Died recently in West Chester, Pennsylvania at the age of 99. The cause of death is unknown. She was born May 10, 1909. She was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of**

America – Phoenixville Chapter #436.

ROBERT F. DILKS – Died Friday, October 10, 2008 in Williamstown, New Jersey at the age of 60. The cause of death was Cancer. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 16, 1948. He served in the United States Army with a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cape May Chapter #955.**

YVAN AURIELE DUFOUR – Died Wednesday, August 6, 2008 in Meridian, Idaho et the age of 58. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related lung cancer. He was born August 23, 1949 in West Shepardstown, New Hampshire, the third oldest of 10 children born to Lucia and Omer Dufour. He spent his early years in Maine. After graduating from high school in 1967 at age 17, he joined the United States Army. His enlistment lasted 12 years, serving in Viet Nam, Vincentia, Italy, Ethiopia, Africa, and several posts within the United States. Upon his discharge, he worked in sales and marketing, college recruitment, accounting and public speaking on radio and television. He later owned his own trucking company until disabled in 2005. Yvan is survived by his devoted wife, Sharon, his parents, six sisters; Margarite, Marriette, Lina, Caroline, Anita, and Bernadette, three brothers: Norman, Reggie and Raymond. He is also survived by his children, Scott, Chris, Sabrina, Ruark, Cindi, Tia and Miles. He was predeceased by his son, Larry (Aug. 6, 2003). In addition, to the above mentioned, Yvan is survived by 18 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He will always be remembered as a passionate and loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend. His tremendous generosity, intense love and support of family will remain in our hearts forever. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Flemington (New Jersey) Chapter #452.** Yvan donated his body to research at Oregon Health Science University for Agent Orange related studies. At his request no funeral is scheduled, instead a memorial celebration will be held on October 25, 2008. The family wishes to express their gratitude to Kristi, Legacy Hospice, for her compassion and excellent care.

DALE A. DUKATE - Died Friday, March 21, 2008 at his home in Jupiter, Florida at the age of 72. The cause of death was cancer. He was born July 21, 1935. He retired from the Indianapolis Asbestos Workers Union. He was a proud United States Army Veteran with service in the Vietnam War. He was an active amateur (Ham) radio operator and a member of 2 radio clubs in Jupiter. He is survived by his son, Robert DuKate of Boca Raton, Florida. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Florida.** A memorial service will be held Thursday March 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Aycock Funeral Home 1112 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL. Friends may visit with family from 5:00 Ð 7:00 p.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society.

LAWRENCE P. ESPOSITO, JR. – Died Friday, September 21, 2007 in Brentwood, Long Island, New York at the age of 56. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 28, 1951. Beloved husband of the late Jeanette Esposito. Devoted son of Violet Fry. Cherished brother of Linda Vecchitto, John Esposito and Annmarie Esposito. Survived by his loving dog/companion, Cisco. Loving nephew of Bob and Dolly Freeman. Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Lawrence was a great benefactor to

numerous charitable organizations, such as The American Cancer Society, a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Farmingville Chapter #11** and the Postal Workers Breast Cancer Coalition. Larry was a dear friend to many and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Family and friends may visit Tuesday and Wednesday, 2-4:30 and 7-9:30 PM, at the Claude R. Boyd-Spencer Funeral Home, 448 West Main Street, Babylon Village. Religious Service at the Funeral Home on Wednesday evening. Interment to follow on Thursday morning at Calverton National Cemetery.

THOMAS O. FISKE – Died Friday, December 12, 2008 in Napa, California. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Candice Fiske, of the home. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Yountville Chapter #702**. He was interred in the historic cemetery of the California Veterans Home in Yountville, California with full military honors.

ORVALE M. “Sonney” FISSEL, JR. - Died Sunday, June 8, 2008, at the Hanover Hospital in Hanover, Pennsylvania at the age of 59. He was a resident of Hanover. The cause of death is unknown. He was the husband of Linda J. (Colehouse) Fissel. Born July 12, 1948 in Hanover, he was the son of Ruby (Garrett) Reedy of Hanover, and the late Orval M. Fissel Sr. He was also the step-son of the late Eugene Reedy. He was employed as a truck driver at Forry Transport in Hanover. Sonney was a 1966 graduate of New Oxford High School and a veteran of Vietnam having served in the Army. He was a member of the Gettysburg Moose, New Oxford Social Club, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. He was a life member of both the VFW and AMVETS in Hanover. Surviving in addition to his wife and mother, are two sons, Orvale "Chip" Fissel and his wife Suzanne, and Michael R. Fissel all of Spring Grove; four grandchildren, Garrett Fissel, Orvale Fissel IV, Tyler Fissel, and Aiden Fissel; a brother, Tom Fissel and his wife Pauline of Raleigh, N.C. He was preceded in death by a sister, Carol Fissel. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Pennsylvania**. The funeral service and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Murphy Funeral Home, McSherrystown, is handling arrangements. Memorial contributions in honor of Sonney may be made to Sweet Charities c/o Mary Flannigan 300 Highland Ave., Hanover, PA 17331.

RICHARD C. “Dick” FRINK – Died Wednesday, November 19, 2008 in Randolph, New York at the age of 64. The cause of death was cancer. He was born April 16, 1944 in Springville, New York to the late Clayton Albert and Olive Emma Demmon Frink. He is survived by two sons, Richard C. and Curtis J. Frink, both of Randolph; a sister and brother-in-law, Marolie and Richard Harvey, of Gowanda; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Douglas and Jane Franklin Frink, of Randolph, Dennis and Jo Ann Frink, of Poinciana, Florida and David and Ellen Frink, of Novi, Michigan, and; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant during the Vietnam-era, October 27, 1961 to October 7, 1975. He was a life member and past commander of the Randolph American Legion Post #181. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6583 and the Jamestown AMVETS Post. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Jamestown Chapter #865**. Funeral services were conducted in the VanRensselaer and Son Funeral Home in Randolph with the Reverend W. David Peter Noves,

Pastor of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Gowanda, officiating.

PETER HURST GIBSON - Died unexpectedly Sunday, August 24, 2008, in Riverside Medical Center in Waupaca at the age of 63. He was a resident of Waupaca, Wisconsin. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 26, 1944, in Rolla, Missouri to the late Henry and Barbara (Blaine) Gibson who survives him. Peter attended UW-Whitewater and received a bachelor's degree in math and physics from Milton College. He had served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the **Vietnam Veterans of America – Appleton Chapter #351**. Peter was an over the road truck driver for about 35 years. He most recently had driven a truck for the H.O. Wolding Co. in Amherst for five years before retiring. Survived by son, Blaine Gibson of Waupaca; mother, Barbara (Blaine) Gibson of Tucson, Ariz.; brother, Alan Blaine Gibson of Harper's Ferry, W. Va.; and sister, Julieann Gibson of Tucson; and aunts and uncles. Predeceased by father, Henry Hurst Gibson. Service was at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, in Holly Funeral Home in Waupaca, the Rev. Jim Bump officiating. Interment was in Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at King, Wis. Military Honors also were observed at the cemetery. The Holly Funeral Home of Waupaca assisted the family with arrangements.

DUNCAN C. GREEN – Died Tuesday, December 2, 2008 in Camillus, New York at the age of 64. The cause of death was metastatic cholangio carcinoma. He was born on January 27, 1944 in Tarrytown, New York to the late Stephen P. H. Green and Arlene Norton Green. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Ranalli Green, of the home; one daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Mark Whittenberg; one son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Erica Green; two grandchildren, Kaylin Haskell and Matthew Duncan Green; a brother and sister-in-law, Stephen H. and Louise Green, and; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Army and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years of service. He served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 and later in the Army Reserves as Commander of the 414th Civil Affairs Unit in Utica, New York from 1984 until his retirement in 1989. He returned to service in 1991 to assist in the unit's deployment during Operation Desert Storm. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Liverpool Chapter #103**. Memorial services were conducted in the Howlett Hill Presbyterian Church. Interment was in the Howlett Hill Cemetery.

WILLIAM GREINER – Died Monday, December 15, 2008 in New Castle, Delaware. The cause of death is unknown. He is survived by his wife, of the home. He was a Veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Wilmington Chapter #83**.

MICHAEL H. GRUBE – Died Tuesday, January 8, 2008 in New Holstein, Wisconsin at the age of 57. The cause of death was cancer. He was born July 16, 1950 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to the late Charles and Mary Hoefler Grube. He married Margaret M. Reseburg on October 27, 1972 and preceded him in death on February 1, 2001. He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Jason and Mandy Grube and Josh and Amy Grube, all of Kiel, Wisconsin; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Brian and Pat Grube, of New Holstein and Terry and Vivian Grube, of New Holstein; one sister, Kris Jaeckel, of Kiel; one brother-in-law, Gary Lynch, of New Holstein; two grandsons, Nicholas Grube and Dylan Grube, both of Kiel; his mother-in-law, Charlotte Reseburg,

of Kiel. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Beverly Lynch. He served in the United States Army having served two tours in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, 1st of the 502nd Special Forces. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Manitowoc Chapter #731**. A memorial service was celebrated at the Meiselwitz-Vollstedt Funeral Home with full military rites conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Interment was in Schleswig Cemetery in Rockville, Wisconsin.

JAMES HUNTER GUMBEL – Died Monday, September 22, 2008 in Naperville, Illinois at the age of 62. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related lung cancer. He was born October 2, 1945 in Des Moines, Iowa. He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Mundt, of Naperville. He served in the United States Army with a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1969. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Davenport (Iowa) Chapter #776**.

OSCAR WILEY HAMILTON - Died Thursday, September 4, 2008, in Denver, Colorado at the age of 79. He was a resident of Whitehouse, Texas. The cause of death was pulmonary disease. He was born July 14, 1929, in the Concord Community to the late Joe and Maud Hamilton with 13 brothers and sisters. After high school Oscar entered the United States Air Force on Dec. 30, 1948. He served his country proudly and honorably for 22 years and retired at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant on Aug. 1, 1969. Oscar served his country with distinction through the Korean and Vietnam wars. His love for this great country led SMSGT Hamilton to a long, celebrated and decorated military career. After his military career, Oscar spent the rest of his working career in the insurance business. Mr. Hamilton was a long-standing member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. Oscar's ministry and commitment to Christ included mission trips, hospital/nursing home visits, Sunday school teacher and any and all other capacities of service. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Forrest and John Hamilton; sisters, Christine Annabelle and Ola Duvall; and one grandchild, Keri Diane Kee Sanders. Oscar married Gloria Ann McDowell on Sept. 23, 1950, and enjoyed a 58-year marriage. They were blessed with four daughters and one son. Barbara Bennett of Denver, Colo., and her two sons, Joshua and Brandon Bennett of Tyler; Kathy and husband Larry Kee of Troup, and their son Kris Kee and wife Candy Kee and their two daughters, Jordan and Jailin of Concord; Joe Richard Hamilton and his wife Kathy of Colorado Springs, Colo., and their two daughters, Amanda and Ashley Hamilton; Teri Adair and husband Craig of Chandler and their sons, Andrew, Austin and daughter Abbey; Melissa Silvey of Tyler and her two sons, Jacob and Jeremy; brothers, Logan Hamilton of Troup, George Hamilton of Whitehouse, Delbert Hamilton of Price, and James Junior Hamilton of Troup; sisters, Mary Stewart of Henderson, Ruby Kee of Troup, Lillie Mahaffey of Henderson, and Betty Martin of Troup. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Tyler Chapter #932**. Funeral services were scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with Revs. Jon Sheppard and Tony Causey officiating. Burial will follow at the Concord Cemetery near Troup with full Military Honors. Family will receive friends at Burks Walker Tippit Funeral Home, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday. Pallbearers will be Kris Kee, Josh Bennett, Brandon Bennett, Amanda Hamilton, Andrew Adair, Ashley Hamilton, Austin Adair, Jacob Silvey, Abbey Adair and Jeremy Silvey. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the M&M Sunday School Class at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and

his surviving brothers and sisters. Oscar loved his God, Family and Country and will be greatly missed.

E. JAMES HARLESS – Died Tuesday, January 13, 2009 in West Des Moines, Iowa at the age of 58. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 5, 1950 in Des Moines, Iowa to Helen Harless and the late Russ Harless. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 38 years, whom he married in 1970, Jeanie Harless, of the home; his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Chris and Rob Taylor; his son and daughter-in-law, Joe and Amanda Harless; seven grandchildren, Melani, Kate, Ben and Will Taylor and Peyton, Kyle and Jake Harless; his sisters Mary Abbott and Rose Parsons; his brother, Russ Harless; his brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Cathy Seyferd, and; numerous nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Army in Vietnam and then joined the Iowa Army National Guard and retired as the youngest First Sergeant (E-8) with the 1/194th Cavalry. He founded and was President of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Des Moines Chapter #490**. Funeral services were at Hamilton's Funeral Home in West Des Moines.

DALE HORTON – Died Monday, October 27, 2008 in Cincinnati, Ohio at the age of 59. The cause of death is unknown. He was born December 5, 1949. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cincinnati Chapter #10**.

GARLAND LEON HOWARD – Died Tuesday, December 16, 2008, in his home in Weimer, Texas at the age of 65. The cause of death was cancer. He was born January 31, 1943, in Livingston, Montana to the late Richard and Lillian Berland Howard. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Les and his sister, Diana. He married Betty Smith on April 24, 1987 in Woodsboro, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Betty Howard of Weimar; son, Greg Howard of Yoakum; daughters, Stephanie Bednorz of Victoria and Pamela Yosko of Runge; two stepchildren, Linda St. Clair of Robstown and Mike Turner of Portland; eight grandchildren. He served in the United States Air Force for eight years from October 1960 to August 1968 and served in Vietnam for one year in 1968. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Schulenburg Chapter #870**.

CHARLES A. HUCKABY – Died recently in 2009 in Chouteau, Oklahoma at the age of 84. The cause of death is unknown. He was born May 8, 1924. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Chouteau Chapter #877**.

JAMES S. HUTCHINSON – Died recently in 2009 in Topinbee, Michigan. The cause of death is unknown. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Sheboygan Chapter #274**.

RICHARD DENNIS "Opa" JODOIN - Died after a courageous battle with cancer on Friday, January 16, 2009, in the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction, Vermont. He was a resident of Milton, Vermont. Richard was born on Oct. 24, 1932, in Burlington, Vermont, the son of the late Hector and Lydia (Couture) Jodoin. He enlisted in the United States Army following

graduation from high school and served for 26 years following Tours of duty in Japan, Korea, and four tours of duty in Vietnam retiring with the rank of Staff Sgt. A person who was very social and could strike up a conversation with anyone, Richard was a finish carpenter who took great pride in his work and his meticulously maintained automobiles. He was fluent in French, German, Japanese Vietnamese as well as the English language. On May 25, 1960, he married Karin Raber in Ingleheim, Germany. Together they have resided in Milton for many years. He was a member of the VFW, Post 758, in St. Albans, American Legion, Post 57, Milton, The Disabled American Veterans and the **Vietnam Veterans of America – St. Albans Chapter #753**. He is survived by his wife, Karin of Milton; and their children Tosca Marina Genau and her husband Alan Sr. of Burlington, Rene Jodoin and his wife Kathy of South Burlington, Lilliana Reitman and her husband Jonathan of Brunswick, Maine, Francoise Dartt and her husband Burns "Willy" of Burlington, and Karin Pataky and her husband Greg of Gouverneur, N.Y. Seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson. His sisters and brothers, Rita Mongeon of South Burlington, Sister Lillian Jodoin of Massachusetts, George Jodoin and wife Joyce of Burlington, Madelaine Letourneau and husband Paul of Essex Junction, Paul Jodoin and wife Mary of Burlington, Laurette Corbin of Burlington. Sisters-in-law Degmare Castro of California, and Magdalena Parker and husband Max also of California; as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters, Ferdinand, Lawrence, Louise and Theresa; and special cousin, Gerard Jodoin. Funeral services with full military honors will be held in the spring in the Chapel at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 121 Conner Way, Suite 240, P.O. Box 1460, Williston, VT 054951460, or the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans Ride Program, in care of the VA Hospital, White River Junction, VT 05001. Visiting hours will be held on Monday, Jan. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Minor Funeral Home, Route 7, Milton.

GARY E. JOHNSON – Died recently In 2009 in Dearing, Kansas at the age of 65. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 7, 1943. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth A. Johnson, of the home. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Permanently Hospitalized Veteran Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Clearwater Chapter #934*.

ROBERT L. JOHNSON – Died recently in 2009 in Kennewick, Washington at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born April 8, 1933. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kennewick Chapter #335**.

STEVEN CLIFFORD KARAS – Died on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee at the age of 60. The cause of death was lung cancer. He was born May 4, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan to Robertine Vorwerk and the late Donald Larry Karas. In addition to his mother, he is survived by two sons, Dustin Karas and Kevin Karas; his daughter-in-law, Stacy Karas; his stepfather, Richard Vorwerk; his sister and brother-in-law, Cathy and Pete Faulkner; his nephew, Eric Faulkner, and; Janet Karas. In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his grandparents. He served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1971. He went to Helicopter Pilot Scholl in Hunter AFB in Georgia from 1969 to 1970 and served as a combat pilot in Vietnam where he flew search and destroy missions and transported troops to and from combat zones.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Valorous Unit Award, Air Medal and Bronze Star. After his military service, he entered the Chattanooga Police Department in 1972. During his tenure with the police department, he flew on of the first helicopters the city had in service. He retired from the force in 1998 and started his second career with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and continued with them until his death. He also served as an instructor pilot in the Tennessee National Guard 278th ACR from 1986 to 1993. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Chattanooga Chapter #203**. Funeral services were conducted in the North Chapel with Pastor Seton Tomy, officiating. Interment with full military honors was in the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

PAUL L. KINNEY – Died Friday, December 5, 2008 in Salina, Kansas at the age of 62. The cause of death is unknown. He was born June 27, 1946. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Salina Chapter #809**.

RAYMOND E. KIRSCHENHEUTER - WILLINGBORO - First Sgt. Raymond E. Kirschenheuter, U.S. Army (Ret.), 61, passed away Sunday, August 17, 2008 at Samaritan Hospice, Mount Holly. Born in Brooklyn, New York on February 15, 1947. The cause of death was cancer. Raymond had been a resident of Willingboro for the past 20 years. He was a Vietnam veteran, retiring as a first sergeant after 21 years of service to his country. He then was employed by the U.S. Postal Service, Princeton Junction, where he worked for 21 years. He was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 26, Old Guard Association, Fort Myer, VA, Willingboro Neighborhood Watch and Willingboro CERT. Surviving is his beloved wife Phyllis (nee Cileo) Kirschenheuter. He was the dear brother of Carol DiMichele and Judy Swagler, both of Phoenix, AR, and Robert of Brooklyn, NY and brother-in-law of Erma Cronce, Angela (Ogden) Gorham and Anthony (Rita) Cileo. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Browns Mills Chapter #899**. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his viewing 9-11 a.m. Friday at the Goes-Scolieri Funeral Home, 212 Levitt Parkway, Willingboro, 609-871-1000. Interment will be private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, 2575 Klockner Road, Hamilton, NJ 08690 or Samaritan Hospice, Inpatient Center, 175 Madison Ave., Mount Holly, NJ 08060.

ROBERT BOB KITTELL - Died Wednesday, November 26, 2008 at Christus Hospital St. Elizabeth in Beaumont at the age of 65. He was a resident of Lumberton, Texas. Robert was born in Beaumont on July 30, 1943 and had lived in the Lumberton area for the past six years. He was a retired Major in the United States Air Force and a member of Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Lumberton. He was also an active member of Acts Retreats and Knights of Columbus, where he was a Fourth Degree Knight. He is survived by his wife, Becky Kittell of Lumberton; daughters, Kristine Costello and husband Sonny of Austin, Debra Blue and husband Arlo of Austin, Kimberly Chesson of Silsbee Oaks, Karen Creighton and husband Scott of Monroe, Georgia, and Kitsy Gaspard and husband Brent of Lumberton; son Kenneth Wilson of Lumberton; brother, Wylie Kittell and wife Becky of Vidor; nine grandchildren; and a niece and nephew. Robert is preceded in death by his father and mother, Robert D. and Wylie Elizabeth Kittell and a sister, Karen Sue

Kittell. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Beaumont Chapter #292**. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at Infant Jesus Catholic Church in Lumberton with burial at 2:15 P.M. at Houston National Cemetery in Houston, under the direction of Broussard's, 490 Cemetery Road, Silsbee. A Christian Vigil will be Monday, December 1, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. followed by a gathering of family and friends until 8:00 P.M. at the mortuary.

GEORGE J. KOECK IV - Died Wednesday, January 9, 2009 at his home in Villas, New Jersey at the age of 64. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Morristown, New Jersey to the late Edmund and Frances Koeck. He grew up in Parsippany, New Jersey and was a 1963 graduate of Madison High School. In 1966 he joined the United States Navy and became an electrician's technician on board the USS William R Rush. In 1971 he went to Active Reserve Center in Wilmington, Del. and back to the USS William R Rush. In 1975 he joined the U. S. Coast Guard and went to Memphis Tenn. until 1979 when he went to the electronics center in Lower Township. When he made warrant officer, he was transferred to Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and then finished out on Governor's Island. He retired after 22 years in both services. He was an administrator to North Wildwood and Lower Township Moose Lodges. He was a member of the Military Officers, American Legion, Fleet Reserve Assoc., Warrant Officers Assoc. U. S. Coast Guard, Loyal Order of the Moose in Lower Township. The Moose Lodge was his favorite place to hang out. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Erma Chapter #602**. He was also predeceased by a brother, Tom. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Joan, a son, George John V in Lower Township, granddaughter Kayla Urie and grandson, George J. VI. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, 11:00 am at the Evoy Funeral Home, 3218 Bayshore Rd., N. Cape May, NJ, where friends may call from 10:00 am.

RONALD E. "Ron" KOWALSKI - Died peacefully at home in Port Monmouth, New Jersey on Saturday, January 31, 2009, the result of exposure to the herbicide 'Agent Orange' at the age of 58. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey on August 12, 1950, he was raised in the Hazlet area where he graduated from Raritan High School, and resided in Port Monmouth. He was the son of Thelma Pedrick and Stepfhahn Kowalski, Ron proudly served his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. He served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. He worked as a journeyman at Anchor Glass in Cliffwood and was financial secretary for Local 119. Ron retired from the Middletown Post Office in 2003 as a mail carrier. Ron was a life member of VFW Post 2179 and where he served as Post Commander, Trustee, and Color Guard Sgt. Major. He was a member of the Philip Tinker Dorn Detachment #198, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Allenhurst Chapter #12**, Board of Directors and Hospital, the Polish Legion of American Veterans, and the American Legion post 515. Ron was an avid Bowler who bowled with Dave Davis and won many tournaments until an ankle injury curtailed the sport. He loved sports, especially football and basketball. He spent many hours restoring his Mercury Cyclone Spoiler. Ron will be remembered in the hearts of those who knew him. He had an outgoing personality, a warm smile and a "hi there" for everyone, and truly meant "how are you?" His most enjoyable times were spent socially with family, friends, VFW 2179, and his brothers of chapter 12 whom he loved deeply. Ron's main interest and love were

his family. He had plans to spend the following years travelling with his wife. His love for his wife and daughters was immeasurable. A visit from his girls and grandchildren never failed to cheer him up. The arrival of baby Danielle brought him tremendous joy and he was proud to be called 'pop-pop' by Nikki. Ron was predeceased by his brother Jeffery, in 1979. Ron is survived by his wife, "baby cakes", Elsie; daughter, Kimberly Kemprowski Alfano; daughter and son-in-law, Melanie and Victor Gonzalez; brother, Stephen Kowalski; sister and brother-in-law, Margaret "Peg" and "Big Jim" Mack; nieces, Theresa Kowalski and Candi Conley; and a host of extended nieces, nephews, cousins. He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. God needed another angel, Ron please watch over us "babe". Special thank you to Ernie Diorio, Little Mary, cousin Bill Neihart, Frannie and the Colonel. Visitation will be Monday, Feb. 2, 2009 for 7-9 pm and Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009 from 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm at John F Pflieger Funeral Home, 115 Tindall Rd., Middletown. Funeral services will be Wednesday from the funeral home at 8:45 am with a Funeral Liturgy to be offered at 9:30 am at St. Mary's Chapel, Leonardville Rd., New Monmouth. Burial will be at Fair View Cemetery, Middletown.

GERALD L. LESMEISTER, SR. – Died Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at VA Medical Center in Buffalo at the age of 60. He was a resident of Tonawanda, New York. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 3, 1948 in Tonawanda, he was the son of the late Sylvester and Lucille (nee Thiebolt) Lesmeister. Gerald had been employed as a Custodian at Fletcher Elementary School in Tonawanda for 15 years. He was a US Army Infantry Combat Veteran serving with the 101st Airborne Div. "The Screaming Eagles" in Vietnam. He was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vietnam Veterans in Tonawanda and a friend of Bill W. He is survived by two children, Gerald L. Lesmeister, Jr. of Tonawanda and Christine Lesmeister of Niagara Falls; a granddaughter, Nicole Lesmeister of Tonawanda, two sisters, Colleen (Daniel) Bufahl of Niagara Falls and Diane (Henry) Russell of Tonawanda; and a brother, Nicholas (the late Norma) Lesmeister of Tonawanda; also survived by nieces and nephews. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Tonawanda Chapter #77**. Friends may call Thursday from 6-9 PM at John O. Roth Funeral Home, Inc., 25 William St. (between Morgan and Broad Sts.) in Tonawanda. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday at 10 AM in St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, 71 Adam St. in Tonawanda. Friends invited. Rev. Michael Uebler will officiate. Burial will be in Elmlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis of Assisi Church.

BRIAN L. MANZA - Died Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, at Kindred Hospital, Peabody, Mass., after a long and courageous battle against Agent Orange-related cancer. He was 59 years of age. He was a resident of Baileyville, Maine. Brian was born June 11, 1949, in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, the son of the late Elizabeth (Bires) Manza and Louis Manza, both of Baileyville. After graduating from Woodland High School in 1967, Brian entered the U.S. Army, 1967-1969. He did a tour of duty in Vietnam with Co C5th Battalion (M), 60th Infantry and 1st Infantry Division, TET Offensive. After returning, Brian attended college at the University of Maine at Machias, graduating in 1973. While in high school, the service and college, Brian played basketball, ran cross-country and boxed. He set numerous records for basketball and cross-country at Woodland High School. In 1967, he was State High School Cross-Country Champion. He ran the

Boston Marathon and Pike's Peak and was on the U.S. Army Fort Carson boxing and running teams. Brian was president of Sunrise County Roadrunners, a representative of state of Maine for BRAVO, member of W.T. Wren Post No. 123 American Legion, Baileyville, AAU, DAV of Orrington, and was founder and president of The Washington (Sunrise) County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He enjoyed spending time at his place on Meddybemps Lake and in the Southwest U.S. Brian is survived by his brother, Joseph Manza and wife, Jane, of Alexander; two nephews, Christopher of Alexander and Jason of Brewer; and a half brother, Ralph Manza of Baileyville. He was special to many people and will be remembered by his dear aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous other family members. Brian will be missed by his special friends, Jim, Mike, Charlie, Billy, Cecil, Jeff, Richard, Linda, Anne, Ivan and the Bohanon boys. Special thanks go to the staff of NHCU 73 and the intensive care unit of Togus. He was their "hero." Brian joins his two beloved dogs who were his loyal companions throughout the years, Duke, who went to college with Brian and ran beside him in his road races; and Sandy, who had served as his and his mother's guardian angel throughout her life with them. Brian never stopped fighting the war in Vietnam. He dedicated his life to actively educating people about Agent Orange. He kept fighting so those that were affected by and died from Agent Orange, and their children, would have hope and recognition. His perseverance and fortitude helped him fight the fight for 40 years. Through donations, Brian had erected two large stones in the Veteran's Park in Baileyville that represent two pages torn from a history book that contains these words: "This stone is to serve as a reminder of our profound gratitude to the proud brave men and women of Washington (Sunrise) County Maine. To those who served, To those who died, To those still missing, and to those still suffering physically as well as psychologically as a result of their service to the nation in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. July 8, 1959 - May 15, 1975. This stone commemorates those veterans of the Vietnam War who died not by enemy action but rather by their exposure to the toxic chemicals used by our forces against the enemy as defoliants. We hereby commemorate those who fell and those who continue to fall from the devastating effects of those toxins. May this memorial serve as a gesture of compassion to their families. We pray that the horror and destruction unleashed by the use of such lethal substances will never be repeated. "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterward." Theodore Roosevelt. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Orono Chapter #185**. At the request of the family, a memorial service will be held at a date to be announced in the spring. Donations in memory of Brian may be made to Ronald McDonald House of Bangor, 654 State St., Bangor, ME 04401. Arrangements by Mays Funeral Home, Calais and Eastport.

PATRICK MARIANETTI - Died Tuesday, January 6, 2009 in Rochester, New York at the age of 63. The cause of death was heart failure. He was born July 6, 1945 in Rochester to the late Pasquale and Filomena Marianetti. He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Parnell) Marianetti; daughters, Stephanie and Tina; beloved pet, Stache; sons, David and Todd; sisters, Barbara (Donald) McCoy, Gail Marie (Nicola) Giordano; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and many special friends. Patrick was a member of the Board of Directors of **Vietnam Veterans of America - Rochester Chapter #20** and a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. Friends may call THURSDAY from 4-8 PM at the DiPonzio Funeral Home, Inc., 219 Spencerport Road, Gates. On Friday

morning, January 9, friends are invited to attend his Funeral Mass at 9:30 in St. John Evangelist Church, 2400 W. Ridge Rd. Interment, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Vietnam Veterans Chapter 20, PO Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 or to CURE Childhood Cancer Assoc. 200 Westfall Rd. 14620 in his memory.

GREGORY C. MAZZOTTA – Died Sunday, September 21, 2008 in Wildwood Crest, New Jersey at the age of 63. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 29, 1945 to the late Gregorio and Josephine (Murgidi) Mazzotta; he lived here for 12 years after moving from Delaware County, PA. He served in the Vietnam War in the United States Army with the Blackhorse 11th Cav. where he was the recipient of many medals including the Purple Heart. He also was a member and served as the Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 3509, Sgt/Arms American Legion Post 184, a *Life Member and President* of the **Wildwood Crest Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #955**, Coordinator Legion Riders, was also a member of the Cape May County Elks, the Sons of Italy and he enjoyed fishing. Mr. Mazzotta is survived by his children; Kristie Hamilton and her husband, Neil of Morton, PA, Joseph Mazzotta and his wife, Colleen of Clifton Heights, PA, and Gregory Mazzotta, Jr. and his wife, Dana of Sea Isle City; his wife, Kathleen and his four grandchildren. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. at the Radzieta Funeral Home, 9 Hand Avenue, Cape May Court House, where viewing will begin at 9:30 a.m. Interment will be in the Cape May County Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 955, c/o American Legion Post 184, Wildwood Crest, New Jersey. 08260.

JAMES K. McCABE – Died Wednesday, December 19, 2007 in Decatur, Georgia at the age of 62. The cause of death is unknown. He was born July 4, 1945. He is survived by Michael R. McCabe, of Decatur. He was a Veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Erie (Pennsylvania) Chapter #435**.

CORNELIUS “Connie” McGOWAN – Died Monday, December 22, 2008 in Monroe, Michigan at the age of 61. The cause of death is unknown. He was born October 10, 1947 in Monroe to the late Charles and Irma (Vandergift) McGowan. He is survived by his stepmother, Laurine McGowan; his life partner, Mary Ann Straub; his grandchildren, McKenzie, Ashley and Juliana; his siblings, Mickey, Thomas, Joseph (Terrie), William and Shaun (Sheila) McGowan, Patricia Riddell, Raymond (Janice) Fritz, Roseanne (Larry) Stutsman and Andrea “Candy” Fritz, and; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Navy from July 1966 to May 1968 as a Seabee with a tour of duty in Vietnam from May 1967 to May 1968. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528**. His cremains were interred in Roselawn Memorial Park.

DONALD E. “Don” McNUTT – Died Sunday, November 9, 2008 in Beaver, Pennsylvania at the age of 66. The cause of death was restrictive pericarditis, congestive heart failure, stroke, polycythemia vera. He was born February 6, 1942 in New Brighton, Pennsylvania to the late Dale L. and Dorothy H. (Roy) McNutt. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Carol (Schmidt)

McNutt, of the home; a daughter and son-in-law, Stacy and Tom Johnston, of Beaver, Pennsylvania; a son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Missy McNutt, of Darlington, Pennsylvania; four grandchildren, Jeremy, Paige, Troy and Travis Johnston; a brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Brenda McNutt, of New Brighton, and; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Beaver County Chapter #862*. He was a member of the Beaver United Methodist Church. Funeral services were conducted in the J & J Spratt Funeral Home with his former pastor, Reverend Barry Lewis, officiating. Interment was in Sylvania Hills Memorial Park in Rochester, Pennsylvania with the VVA Chapter providing military honors.

JAMES MILTON METZ - Died on Friday, September 19, 2008 in Indian Land, South Carolina at the age of 61. The cause of death was myocardial infarction due to myasthenia gravis. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware on February 13, 1947 to the late Marian Beard Metz and John Milton Metz. He grew up in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He also lived in Ohio and North Carolina. On November 7, 1987, he married Catherine Taylor. They built a house in Indian Land, South Carolina, where they have lived since 1990. Jim was a Lance Corporal in the 3rd Engineer Battalion of the 3d Marine Division during the Viet Nam Conflict from 1966 to 1967. He blew up tunnels, disarmed land mines, and even dropped from helicopters to set up air strips for the Marines. He served his country with pride, never boasting about his accomplishments. Upon returning home from Viet Nam, he started work in the telephone industry at Western Electric in Cleveland, Ohio. He continued in telecommunications until the last day of his life, working for Comtel, Norstan, Key Communications, Corley Communications, Key Services and SafeCell. His favorite job was his last job. The men at SafeCell were true friends to him. They showed extraordinary compassion during his illness. Jim is survived by his wife, Catherine Metz; brother and sister-in-law, Dave and Suzi Metz of Lakeland, Florida; sister-in-law, Judy Mets of New Philadelphia, Ohio; niece and nephew, Cindy and William Kerfchbaumer of New Philadelphia, Ohio; father-in-law, Hiero Taylor of Indian Land; mother-in-law, Norma Taylor of Lake Wylie; brothers-in-law, Louis and James Taylor of Indian Land, and Pepper Taylor of Kure Beach (brother-in-law); and great niece and nephews, Lauren Clay, Nicholas Clay, Alex Counts and William Taylor. He joins his parents, his brother Bob, and his niece Vicky in heaven. He was an *At-Large Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – South Carolina*. Visitation is at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 27, 2008 at McEwen Pineville Chapel, followed by a Memorial service at 2:00 p.m. The burial will be after the service at Crown Memorial Park in Pineville. His wife's uncle, the Reverend James Roberts will officiate. McEwen Funeral Service, Pineville Chapel, is assisting the Metz Family.

CLAYTON J. MINIER – Died recently in 2008 in Millersburg, Michigan at the age of 85. The cause of death is unknown. He was born March 15, 1922. He was a *Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Cheboygan Chapter #274*.

DAVID JOHN “Dave” NEVILLE – Died Monday morning, October 13, 2008 at his residence in Blackshear, Georgia at the age of 78, following a lengthy illness. Born in England on April 23, 1930, he had lived in many places during his military career. Mr. Neville retired from the United

States Army where he had served during World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Darwin J. Thomas Memorial Chapter #201 (San Jose, California)**. Mr. Neville was a member of Blackshear First Baptist Church and was preceded in death by his parents, Reginald T. J. & Beatrice Palmer Neville. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Elizabeth Mobley Neville; and his sister, Iris M. Pratt. Survivors are his wife of almost eight years, Beth Allen Marr Neville of Blackshear; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Michael & Penny Neville of San Antonio, TX and Robert Hubbard of Blackshear; a grandchild, Tammy Collins of San Antonio; two special nieces, Barbara Pratt of Lake City, Minnesota and Mary Anna & Blain Krogh of Winona, Minnesota and several other nieces, nephews & relatives. A memorial service for Mr. Neville will be held Friday afternoon, October 17, 2008, at 2:00 o'clock at the First Baptist Church. Memorialization is by cremation. Memorials may be made to the Youth Department of First Baptist Church, 670 Main Street, Blackshear, GA 31516 or to Hospice Satilla, 317 Plant Ave., Waycross, GA 31501.

JAMES ROBERT O'NEILL – Died recently in 2009 in the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania at the age of 58. The cause of death is unknown. He was born April 14, 1950. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Permanently Hospitalized Veteran Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Altoona Chapter #967**.

GEORGE "Bernie" OWEN – Died Friday, November 7, 2008 in Houston, Texas at the age of 64 after a long illness. He was born in Meridian, Mississippi on February 8, 1944 to Tiny and George Owen. He was raised in Mobile, Alabama and moved to Houston in 1974. He retired from the City of Houston in 2007, where he was a CPA. During his retirement, he worked as a volunteer at the Veterans Memorial Hospital. He leaves behind two brothers, Richard and Joseph, who reside in Mobile and his beloved dog, Tallulah. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Houston Chapter #343**. A mass at St. Monica's Catholic Church (1131 Dauphin Island Pkwy Mobile, AL 36605) will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 13th. In lieu of flowers, send donations to the Houston Dalmatian Rescue Society.

RAYMOND H. PALOMARES – Died Monday, November 10, 2008 at Wahiawa General Hospital in Wahiawa, Hawaii at the age of 82. He was a resident of Wahiawa. The cause of death is unknown. He was born April 16, 1926 in Wahiawa, Hawaii. Mr. Palomares was proud of his 48 years of Federal Government Services. He was a member of Na Kuku olu I Ka Hula, Wahiawa Rainbow Senior Club, Wahiawa Rainbow Bowling Club and a loving dad, grandpa, & great grandpa. He served in the United States Air Force with service during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Honolulu Chapter #858**. He is survived by sons, Vernon (Carolyn) Palomares, Vincent (Deborah) Palomares, Victor (Audra) Palomares; daughter, Cecilia (Nick) Tamondong; grandchildren, Kristina (Vance) Kitaoka, Terese (Nathan) Houghtailing, Tracy Tamondong, Aurie (Christopher) Paulo, Anthony (Loriann) Palomares, Aaremy Palomares, Aeshalani Palomares, AsherRay Palomares, Tihani Palomares; great-grandchildren, Anuhea Halmos-Paulo, Chaedez Halmos Paulo, Casheus Halmos-Paulo, Achilles

Palomares, Bryce Houghtailing. Visitation 6:00-9:00 PM Tuesday (December 2) at Mililani Mortuary Mauka Chapel. Wake Service 6:30 PM. Visitation also 9:00 AM Wednesday (December 3) at Our Lady Of Sorrows Catholic Church (1403A California Ave., Wahiawa) Mass: 10:30 AM. Burial 12:00 PM at Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery. Casual Attire. Flowers Welcome.

SAMUEL ALEXANDER PETROSKY – Died Tuesday, July 1, 2008 in Whaletown, British Columbia, Canada at the age of 62. The cause of death was cancer. He was born November 14, 1945. He is survived by his wife, Frances Laberge, of the home. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Overseas**.

JOSEPH T. PETTIT, JR. - Died Monday, July 7, 2008 at home in Erma, New Jersey at the age of 58. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 14, 1949. He has been a local resident for the past 25 years. Mr. Pettit is survived by: wife: Evelyn née Rennix, eight children: Deborah Pettit, Joseph T. Pettit, III, Nicole Aguilar, Thomas Pettit, Jillian Fiore, Shawn Pettit, Steven Pettit and Jennifer Ayala, 24 grandchildren, two brothers: George Pettit and Bernard Pettit, two sisters: Delorise Bortles and Cecilia Koch. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Erma Chapter #602**. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday 11am at St. John of God Church, 680 Town Bank Rd., North Cape May, where friends may call from 10am. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Lower Township. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory to Holy Redeemer Hospice, 1801 Rt. 9 North, Swainton, N.J. 08210 would be appreciated. Arrangements are by Ingersoll-Greenwood Funeral Home.

JOHN J. PURCELL, JR. – Died Thursday, November 27, 2008 in Fishkill, New York at the age of 72. The cause of death was heart failure. He was born June 1, 1936 to the late John J. Purcell, Sr. and Julia Bardwell Purcell. He married Marcia Pierce on July 21, 1964. In addition to his wife of 44 years, he is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen Purcell, of Woodinville, Washington and Susan and Martin Tornai, of Corrboro, North Carolina; two sons and daughters-in-law, Sean and Dawn Purcell, of Lee, Massachusetts and Thomas and Hillary Purcell, of Farmingdale, New York; seven grandchildren, Jessica, Evan and Nicholas Tornai, Jack and James Purcell and Lilliana and Benjamin Purcell, and; two brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Nancy Purcell, of Landing, New Jersey and Jeff and Maureen Purcell, of Plainfield, Illinois. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1957 to 1961. He was a life member of The American Legion – Newburgh Post #152 serving as Commander of that post for years. He was a past Commander of the Orange County American Legion. He was a Commandant of the Temple Hill Detachment of the Marine Corps League. He was a member of VAVS at the Castle Point VAMC. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Newburgh Chapter #537**. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Saint Mary Mother of the Church Roman Catholic Church in Fishkill.

FRANK HOWARD RIPPEL - Died Monday, January 5, 2009, at the Atlantic Regional Medical Center at the age of 69. He was a resident of Villas, New Jersey. The cause of death is unknown. He was born July 23, 1939 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and moved to Cape May County in 1959.

He was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the United States Air Force. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Erma Chapter #602**. He is survived by his three sons: Francis W. and William C. of the Villas; Jeremy of Iowa; a daughter, Amanda C. Rippel of Cape May; a sister, Lillian (Richard) Baker of Wildwood; one granddaughter, Kayla and a great granddaughter, Anya Evelyn. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the Radzieta Funeral Home, 9 Hand Avenue, Cape May Court House, NJ where friends may visit at 6 p.m. Interment is private. Memorials may be made to the Viet Nam Veterans of America, Chapter 602, 596 Seashore Road, Erma, NJ 08204.

DONALD RITTENHOUSE – Died Tuesday, November 4, 2008 in Defiance, Ohio at the age of 76. The cause of death was lung cancer. He was born June 20, 1932 in Mount Victory, Kentucky to the late Thelma Garrison and his stepfather, Floyd Rittenhouse. He married Cindy Cisco in 2005. In addition to his wife, Cindy, of the home, he is survived by two sons and one daughter-in-law, Donald and Julie and Brandon, all of Defiance; two stepdaughters, Any (Kevin) O'Mara and Erin Pixler, all of Toledo, Ohio; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Minnie and Cleon Hohenberger and Edith and Larry Szabo, all of Defiance and Edna Seeds, of Naples, Florida; one grandchild, and; three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, Doyle and Floyd Rittenhouse. He served in the United States Army during both the Korean War and the Vietnam War and retired in 1974 at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. Among his many awards was the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the Vietnam War. He was a Life Member of AmVETS Post #1991, Disabled American Veterans Chapter #36 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3360. He was also a member of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Defiance Chapter #954**. Funeral services were conducted in the Mast-Mock-Hoffman-Hanenkrath-Clevenger-Schaffer Funeral Home in Defiance with the Reverend David Brobston, officiating. Interment with full military honors was in Riverside Cemetery.

MERRELL G. "Smokey" ROBERTS – Died Friday, December 2, 2005 in Big Pond, Pennsylvania at the age of 55. He was formerly of Wellsburg, New York. The cause of death was the result of a 45 year battle with diabetes. He was born August 8, 1950 in Elmira, New York to Gordon Roberts, of Wellsburg and the late Beatrice Roberts. In addition to his father, he is survived by his wife, Kaytie-Anne; his children; his siblings, and many other relatives. He was a member of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Elmira (New York) Chapter #803**.

CARLOS ROMERO – Died recently in 2009 in Hialeah, Florida at the age of 68. The cause of death is unknown. He was born July 20, 1940. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Florida**.

TED A. ROSEBERRY – Died Sunday, January 18, 2009 in his home in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania at the age of 63. The cause of death was heart disease and Agent Orange-related Diabetes Mellitus Type II. He was born June 25, 1945 in Phillipsburg, New Jersey to the late Edgar F. and Viola (Morrison) Roseberry. He and his wife, the former Jolen G. Lamia, observed their 15th wedding anniversary last January 30. He lived in Kunkletown for the last 14 years, before that, he lived in

Phillipsburg. Ted was a machine operator for Dixie Cup Division of Georgia Pacific Co., Forks Township. He was of the Lutheran faith. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He served on active duty combat and was a recipient of a Purple Heart Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with Cluster and the Vietnam Service Medal. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans Keystone State Chapter 16; American Legion Post 927, Gilbert; V.F.W. Post 294 of Pennsylvania; Vietnam **Veterans of America - Easton Chapter #415** and numerous wildlife and environmental groups. He was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association. He graduated from Phillipsburg High School, class of 1962. **Survivors:** Wife, Jolen; stepson, Joseph D. Watson and his fiancée, Maryann Torres, both of Allentown; sister, Betty Lombardi and her husband, Evo, of Phillipsburg; nieces, nephews. A brother, Edgar F. Roseberry Jr., and a sister, Joyce Kalnas, died earlier. **Services:** 1 p.m. Friday in the Rupell Funeral Home L.L.C., 465 Memorial Parkway, Phillipsburg, N.J. Calling hours will be held from 11 a.m. until time of services Friday in the funeral home. Burial, Easton Cemetery.

THOMAS M. SCHWEIKERT - Died Monday, February 4, 2008 at Rose Harbor Hospice Residence, Oshemo Township at the age of 60. He was a resident of Allegan, Michigan. The cause of death is unknown. He was born May 12, 1947 in Allegan, the son of Maxwell and Norine (Duryea) Schweikert. He was a 1965 graduate of Allegan High School. He had served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Hopkins V.F.W. He had been employed at Michigan Gas in Otsego for 33 years. He is survived by two daughters and their husbands, Cindy and Lance Beard of Allegan and Cammy and Eric Stanislawski of Ramsy; three grandchildren, Tyler, Chase and Brooke; two nephews and one niece. He was preceded in death by his sister, Carolyn Deffenbough. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Holland Chapter # 73**. Friends may meet with the family from 5-7 PM Thursday at the Gorden Funeral Residence - Allegan Chapel, where funeral services will be held Friday at 11 AM Rev. G. Patrick White, officiating. Interment Hudson Corners Cemetery, Allegan Twp. with military honors by the Otsego V.F.W. Post #3030. Memorial contributions may be made to Rose Harbor Hospice Residence.

THEODORE L. SHERLOCK – Died Monday, December 8, 2008 in Lochbuie, Colorado at the age of 62. The cause of death is unknown. He was born October 7, 1946. He is survived by his former wife, Letty Sherlock. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Louisiana**.

JIMMY A. SHIPLEY – Died Monday, December 8, 2008 in Hixson, Tennessee at the age of 60. The cause of death is unknown. He was born September 23, 1948 in Chattanooga, Tennessee to the late William and Prudie Shipley. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sheila Carpenter Shipley, of the home; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Travis and Tara Shipley, of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, Heath Shipley, of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee and Aaron and Jenny Shipley, of Hixson; his sister, Pam Melton, of South Carolina; eight grandchildren, Taylor, Rell, Skylar, Riley, Abbey, Elaina, Hannah and Josie; his father-in-law, Carl Carpenters; brothers and sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Navy from 1967 to 1971 during the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Chattanooga Chapter**

#203. Funeral services were conducted in the Coulter Chapel of Lane Funeral Home with the Reverend Sam Phillips and his son Dr. Travis Shipley, co-officiating. Interment was in Hamilton Memorial Gardens.

DANIEL LYNN “Danny” SILER – Died Monday, December 8, 2008 in Robbinsville, North Carolina at the age of 52. The cause of death is unknown. He was born March 3, 1956 in Robbinsville to John and Lavon Brooks Siler, of Robbinsville. He was predeceased by his wife, Linda Porter Siler and his stepson, Scotty Stone. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his daughter, Jessica Piercy, of Andrews, North Carolina; his son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Alisha Siler, of Andrews; his stepson, James “Dicky” Stone, of Robbinsville; his stepdaughter, Pamela Kowalski, of Robbinsville; his sister, Nancy Orr, of Robbinsville; 16 grandchildren, and; 3 great-grandchildren. He served in the United States Army with the 9th Signal Brigade. He was a three-term Commander of The American Legion Post 192 and also served as Vice-Commander. He worked as a Veterans Advocate and made Legionnaire of the Year in 2005. He was a life member of Disabled American Veterans and National Veterans Coalition. He was military/veterans writer for the local newspapers. He was a member of Sweetgum Baptist Church. He was a *Life Member* of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Franklin Chapter #994**. Funeral services were conducted in the Townson-Smith Chapel with the Reverends Kenny Ball, Jack Millsaps and Harold Beasley, as co-officiants. Military rites were conducted the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

JOHN R. SMITH, JR. – Died Wednesday, December 31, 2008 in West Palm Beach, Florida at the age of 61. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Detroit, Michigan to the late John R. and Agnes Smith, Sr. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Ruth Smith, of the home; his son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Jessie Smith; his daughter and son-in-law, Shannon and James Farrell; his grandson, Jonathan Farrell; his granddaughter, Isabella Farrell; four sisters and brothers-in-law, Sharon and Norman Azoon, Rita and Tony Teixeira, Peggy George and Laura and Steve Buwalda; his sister-in-law and her husband, Faith and Stan Gould; his brother-in-law and his wife, Albert and Michelle Tregenza, and; several nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War in the 94th Engineers as a Specialist Four. He was a member of the Union Congregational Church. He was a *Charter Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – West Palm Beach Chapter #25**.

GARY LYNN SNYDER - Died Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at his home in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the age of 61. The cause of death was esophageal cancer with brain and bone metastases. He was born January 2, 1947, in Marion, Ohio the son of Lawrence W. and Kathryn P. (Baker) Snyder. He was a 1965 graduate of Marion Harding High, Marion, Ohio, 1975 graduate of Marion Technical College, Marion, Ohio. He was a United States Army Vietnam veteran, from 1966 to 1967, honorably discharged - past officer, delegate of Vietnam veterans 105, Marion, Ohio; past officer of Vietnam Veterans 288, Fort Wayne; past Commander of Allen County Council of Veterans from 1991 to 1992. He was an *At-Large Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Indiana**. He was a member of American Legion Post 82, V.F.W. 2457, New Haven, 40 & 8 Voiture 37, Fort Wayne and VVA. He retired from GTE Data Services/Verizon with 26 years of service. He was an

avid bowler in several leagues and a member of the GTE Retiree Club. He was formally employed at Kitty Hawk Air Cargo, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum (parking lot), and Keepsake Photos as a seasonal photographer. He was a sound and computer technician; and active, past worship chairman and member at Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church. He married Jean A. (Martin) on Dec. 16, 1967. Surviving are his wife, Jean Ann of Fort Wayne; daughters, Michelle (Patrick) Litell of Marion, Ohio and Lori (Kip) Yurt of Albion; grandsons, Benjamin Lehman, Brandon and Blake Litell, Vincent and Dallas Yurt; father, Lawrence Snyder of Marion, Ohio; and brother, David (Maggie) Snyder of Marion, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his mother, Kathryn P. (Baker) Snyder. Service is 2 p.m. Tuesday at Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church, 10145 Maysville Road, with calling one hour prior. The Rev. C. William Farmer officiating. Calling also from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at D.O. McComb & Son Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road. Burial in Bowers Cemetery with Military Honors by Amvets Post 33. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church Building Fund.

JERRY D. SPARLING – Died Saturday, January 10, 2009 in Salem, Illinois at the age of 70. The cause of death is Agent Orange-related but specifically unknown. He was born January 3, 1939. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Saint Marys (Pennsylvania) Chapter #948**.

THADEUS H. STRYMINSKI – Died Tuesday, November 4, 2008 in the Philippines. The cause of death was liver failure. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and retired at the rank of E-8, Master Sergeant. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Philippines Chapter #887**.

WILLIAM S. SUMMIT – Died recently in 2008 in Tangent, Oregon. The cause of death is unknown. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Albany Chapter #585**.

JOHN K. SUNTKEN – Died recently in 2009 in Waterford, Michigan at the age of 59. The cause of death is unknown. He was born April 10, 1949. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Suntken, of the home. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Michigan**.

MICHAEL ROBERT TRIMBLE - Died Thursday, October 16, 2008 at Bay Pines VA Hospital in Florida at the age of 60. He was a resident of Pinellas Park, Florida. The cause of death was end-stage liver disease, cirrhosis, portal hypotension and acute tubular necrosis secondary to vancomycin. Funeral service will be held 11AM Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at the Swartz Funeral Home, 1225 West Hill Road, Pastor Jim Reid officiating. Burial in Great Lakes National Cemetery. Visitation 5PM-8PM Monday and 1PM-4PM and 6PM-8PM Tuesday at the funeral home. Michael was born in Flint, Michigan on July 21, 1948 the son of James R. and Ruth M. (Hamlin) Trimble. He graduated from Holy Redeemer Catholic High School, Class of 1966. Michael married Kathleen (House) in Flint at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on December 27, 1969. Mr. Trimble served as a helicopter pilot in the United States Army from 1967 to 1970

during the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Trimble also served 20 years in the National Guard. Michael was employed at General Motors Metal Fab for 30 years, retiring in 1995. Mr. Trimble belonged to VFW Post 4087, DAV - Distinguished Flying Cross Society. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Flint Chapter #175**. Surviving are wife Kathleen; son, Chad; daughter, Megan; brothers, Tim, Patrick, John; sisters, Rose Marie Sitko and Therese Petersen; 15 nieces and nephews; 6 great nieces and nephews.

JOHN W. TWOHIG - Died Wednesday evening, September 17, 2008 in Mercy Medical Center Emergency Room at the age of 64, following a sudden illness. He was a resident of North Canton, Ohio. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on September 11, 1944 and lived in the Youngstown area most of his life before moving to North Canton. He was a graduate of Cleveland Technical High School, served in the United States Navy, the National Guard and retired as the executive director of the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission in 2006. He was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church in Canton, the V.V.A. #135, E.S.G.R, 1st CAV, O.S.A.C.V.S.O, G.O.V.A. where he served on the Veterans Affairs Panel, the U.V.S. where he served as Commander, the M.V.M. where he served as president. E.N.G.U.S. the American Legion, Youngstown Post #15, and the Am vets Youngstown Post #44. He was preceded in death by his 1st wife: Virginia C. Twohig who died in 1991. John is survived by his wife: Dianne K. (Bartolet) Twohig, of the home; sons: Shawn C. Twohig, of Youngstown; daughter: Kelly L. (Travis) McDade, of Salem, OH; step-sons: James R. Bartolet, of Canton, Daniel J. (Maryann) Bartolet, of Grove City, OH; sister: Barbara A. (William) Gartland, of Brecksville, OH; and three grandchildren. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Poland Chapter #135**. Graveside services were conducted in the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio with full military honors.

ALBERT FRANK VALOUCH, JR. – Died Saturday, November 29, 2008 in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was born August 28, 1932 in Tuttle, Oklahoma to the late Vera Bell and Albert Frank Valouch, Sr. He married Margaret Rawlings on April 26, 1962 in Winchester, Virginia. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife and a brother. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Anita Romero and Lynn Fisher, of Alaska; two brothers and one sister-in-law, John and Bessie Valouch, of Chocktaw, Oklahoma and Allen Valouch, of Manteca, California, and; three grandchildren, Jamie, Julie and Jessi. He enlisted in the Army National Guard and later served in the United States Army for the next twenty years serving in Korea and Vietnam. He was a helicopter mechanic and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of The American Legion Post #193 and a volunteer for the American Red Cross and Reynolds Army Hospital. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**. Funeral services were conducted in the Whinery-Huddleston Chapel with Chaplain (CPT) Lee Rogers, officiating.

TOMMIE L. WALKER – Died Saturday, March 8, 2008 in Lebanon, Oregon at that age of 62. The cause of death is hypoxia, cardiopulmonary arrest and encephalopathy. He was born September 28, 1945 in Hugo, Oklahoma to the late Kenneth and Lorine (Burton) Walker. He married Ellen Dawson on February 18m 1966 in Reno, Nevada. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his

son, Bobby Walker, of La Grande, Oregon; his daughter and son-in-law, Tammie and Michael McCombs, of Harrisburg, Oregon; his granddaughter, Destiny McCombs; two brothers, J. O. Walker, of Lebanon and Gerald Walker, of Live Oak, California, and; his sister, Patsy Routon, of Lebanon. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, Johnnie Walker and Kenneth "Corky" Walker. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and was awarded two Purple Hearts and was honorably discharged in 1967. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Albany Chapter #585**. A memorial service was celebrated at the Huston-Jost Funeral Home in Lebanon.

RALPH P. WILSON – Died Saturday, October 18, 2008 in Seffner, Florida at the age of 54. He died from complications following an auto accident. He was born November 2, 1954. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War from 1972 to 1974. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Tampa Chapter #787**.

D. W. WOODCRAFT – Died in October 2008 in Essex, England, United Kingdom at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born April 17, 1939. He is survived by his son. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Rutland (Vermont) Chapter #1**.

H. L. WOODS – Died in September 2007 in El Cajon, California. The cause of death is unknown. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Petaluma Chapter #563**.

PHILLIP E. "Doc Zeke" ZARRELLA – Died Friday, July 18, 2008 in Sparks, Nevada at the age of 63. The cause of death was pulmonary fibrosis. He was a cherished husband and father, proud grandfather, loyal friend and brother, highly respected healthcare provider, veterans advocate and long suffering Red Sox fan. The second youngest of seven children, Phillip was born on the 4th of July 1945 in Brockton, MA where he proceeded to develop his work ethic and otherwise raise mayhem on his family's dairy farm. After a short stint in the seminary, he enlisted in the Navy in 1964 and proudly served as a Corpsman for the Marines with ECHO 2/7 during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the states in 1968, he married Twila, started a family and began what would become a 40 year career as a respiratory therapist. He made a career out of helping people and touching lives in Southern California, South Dakota and Nevada. A devoted family man, Phillip regularly boasted about his beautiful wife, three daughters and five grandchildren. And he never hesitated to brag about the two recent World Series triumphs by the Boston Red Sox ...GO SOX! Phillip passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones. His memory lives on through Twila, his wife of 40 years; daughters, Gabriella (Mel English), Danielle and Kristina (Keith Owens); the five jewels of his crown, grand- children Breanna, Cassandra, Anastasia, Juston and Zoe; sisters Geri and Rose; brothers, Joseph and Peter; numerous nieces and nephews and dear friends. Not to mention his devoted companion Dakota. He was a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Reno Chapter #989**. A life celebration for Phillip will be held Saturday, July 26 at 2 p.m. at Emmanuel First Baptist Church in Sparks, 1100 12th St. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the General Post Fund at

the VA Medical Center Reno, NV in Phillips name: VA Medical Center General Post Fund, in memory of Phillip Zarrella 1000 Locust St. Reno, NV 89502.

**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD! AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM!
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE! AMEN! MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE! AMEN!**

FATHER PHIL SALOIS, M.S.