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Twenty-Seven California Veterans to be Inducted into *In Memory* Program for 2020

Ceremony in Washington, D.C. honors Vietnam Veterans who died after returning home

Washington, D.C. – Nearly 600 Vietnam veterans, including twenty-seven from California, will be inducted into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's (VVMF) *In Memory* Program for 2020. The program honors Vietnam veterans whose lives were cut short as a result of their service after they returned home from Vietnam.

On October 15, 2021, VVMF will host its 2020 *In Memory* ceremony on the East Knoll of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where the names of each of the 591 honorees for 2020 will be read aloud. The ceremony was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

“For many Vietnam veterans, coming home from Vietnam was just the beginning of a whole new fight. Many never fully recovered, either physically or emotionally, from their experiences. As these veterans pass, it is our duty and solemn promise to welcome them home to the place that our nation has set aside to remember our Vietnam veterans,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.

The plaque that honors these veterans was dedicated as a part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in 2004. It reads: *In Memory of the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. We honor and remember their sacrifice.*

2020 In Memory Inductees from California:

[Robert Claude Arnold, U.S. Air Force](#)

Toulemne County, Calif.

July 10, 1950 – April 6, 2018

[Leo Alan Battle, U.S. Army](#)

Long Beach, Calif.

December 10, 1946 – December 31, 2018

[Francis E. Chominski, U.S. Army](#)

San Bruno, Calif.

January 14, 1948 – November 11, 2014

[James Michael Christiansen, U.S. Army](#)

Yorba Linda, Calif.

April 22, 1947- February 26, 2019

Wayne Alvin Corliss, U.S. Marine Corps

Montague, Calif.

March 28, 1949 – November 10, 2019

Fredrick Emerson Eckley, U.S. Navy

Yucaipa, Calif.

January 16, 1948 – December 18, 2019

Fred Henry Ernst, U.S. Air Force

Huntington Beach, Calif.

March 16, 1933 – April 23, 2015

Robert Earl Fitzgerald, U.S. Army

Elk Grove, Calif.

September 28, 1948 – September 12, 2013

William Lewis Flatter, U.S. Air Force

Lodi, Calif.

May 30, 1947 – November 12, 2012

Gregory M. Gonzales, U.S. Army

East Los Angeles, Calif.

March 7, 1951 – February 15, 2012

Luis Gutierrez, U.S. Marine Corps

San Diego, Calif.

July 31, 1943 – November 11, 2018

Robert Allen Hackney Sr., U.S. Army

Concord, Calif.

August 8, 1946 – December 20, 2015

Wilbur James Harvey, U.S. Army

Sacramento, Calif.

July 8, 1945 – June 1, 2016

James Elmer Keener III, U.S. Army

Barstow, Calif.

April 7, 1947 – August 10, 2019

Gary P. Lott, U.S. Air Force

Citrus Heights, Calif.

May 13, 1948 – November 10, 2017

Forrest James Meachen, U.S. Navy

San Jose, Calif.

January 26, 1948 – April 19, 2019

Michael C. Mishler, U.S. Marine Corps

Pleasanton, Calif.

June 16, 1949 – July 19, 2019

Michael Robert Moore, U.S. Air Force

Ukiah, Calif.

October 26, 1947 – July 9, 2017

Edward Terry Peacock, U.S. Army

Rancho Cordova, Calif.

February 29, 1948 – May 18, 2019

Robert Pico, U.S. Air Force

Olivehurst, Calif.

December 14, 1934 – April 7, 2012

Michael Lee Reynolds, U.S. Air Force

San Jose, Calif.

March 11, 1945 – April 21, 2019

Joseph Rodriguez Sr., U.S. Marine Corps

Pasadena, Calif.

December 31, 1943 – September 15, 1994

Jorge Sanchez, U.S. Marine Corps

La Puente, Calif.

September 25, 1946 – December 25, 2016

Daniel Louis Schick, U.S. Marine Corps

Yucca Valley, Calif.

June 7, 1945 – July 17, 2018

William Ronald Smith, U.S. Marine Corps

Livermore, Calif.

September 21, 1946 – November 22, 2005

Richard E. Valpey, U.S. Army

Mojave, Calif.

July 23, 1948 – October 31, 2015

Dennis Dolph Walker, U.S. Army

San Francisco, Calif.

May 20, 1941 – June 4, 1975

VVMF has created a personal remembrance page for each honoree online in the *In Memory* Honor Roll at www.vvmf.org/honor-roll. Their photos are also displayed around the country when VVMF's mobile exhibit, *The Wall That Heals*, is on display in an honoree's home state.

The 2020 *In Memory* ceremony will be shown live on VVMF's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VietnamVeteransMemorialFund>) beginning at 10 a.m. ET on October 15, 2021. The *In Memory* program was created in 1993 and has since honored more than 5,100 veterans. For more information on the *In Memory* program or to apply to have your loved one honored in 2022, please visit: www.vvmf.org/inmemory.

About the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families. VVMF's mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era. To learn more about VVMF, visit www.vvmf.org or call 202-393-0090.

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