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Twenty-One California Veterans to be Inducted into *In Memory* Program in 2021

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

Washington, D.C. – Nearly 400 Vietnam veterans, including twenty-one from California, will be inducted into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's (VVMF) *In Memory* Program in 2021. The program honors Vietnam veterans whose lives were cut short as a result of their service after they returned home from Vietnam.

On October 16, 2021, VVMF will host the 2021 *In Memory* ceremony on the East Knoll of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where each 2021 honoree's name will be read aloud. This year, 361 service members will be honored during the ceremony.

"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.*

2021 In Memory Inductees from California:

[Jack R. Arnold, U.S. Air Force](#)

Lompoc, Calif.

November 11, 1934 – August 24, 2018

[Eusebio Briones Avila, U.S. Army](#)

Delano, Calif.

April 3, 1946 – July 20, 2019

[Bradley C. Barnett, U.S. Navy](#)

Santee, Calif.

December 12, 1952 – May 7, 2020

[Ray Darrow, U.S. Army](#)

Los Gatos, Calif.

January 26, 1949 – January 7, 2020

Robert A. Fiesler, U.S. Army

Huntington Beach, Calif.

November 21, 1951 – February 18, 2019

Mario Galvan, U.S. Army

Elk Grove, Calif.

November 17, 1946 – May 8, 2020

Brian E. Garman, U.S. Army

Oxnard, Calif.

October 25, 1943 – July 13, 2020

Michael Douglas Gottas, U.S. Marine Corps

Graegle, Calif.

October 21, 1946 – March 28, 2019

Larry Emmitt Groce, U.S. Navy

Santa Ana, Calif.

March 9, 1947- March 25, 2017

Kenneth Eugene Hadley, U.S. Marine Corps

Salinas, Calif.

February 12, 1947 – October 13, 2019

Phillip Wayman Holdaway, U.S. Army

San Bernardino, Calif.

January 8, 1947 – January 9, 2020

Jim Langford, U.S. Army

San Diego, Calif.

October 30, 1950 – October 30, 2019

Porfirio Rudy Macias, U.S. Army

Alhambra, Calif.

January 16, 1949 – March 23, 2018

William Steve Meineke, U.S. Navy

Lake Elsinore, Calif.

June 1, 1952 – October 16, 2020

Michael Allen Nash, U.S. Navy

Fullerton, Calif.

January 21, 1948 – January 30, 2020

Allen Petersen, U.S. Army

Riverside, Calif.

November 12, 1941 – August 2, 1994

John Charles Robinson, U.S. Navy

San Jose, Calif.

December 3, 1947 – June 19, 2020

Ricardo R. Sanchez, U.S. Army

Pico Rivera, Calif.

July 2, 1946 – January 27, 2021

Michael Louis Schrock, U.S. Army

San Francisco, Calif.

July 4, 1947 – May 14, 2020

Allan Davis Stirling Jr., U.S. Marine Corps

Oakland, Calif.

February 23, 1946 – January 11, 2015

Robert L. Toman, U.S. Navy

Torrance, Calif.

April 27, 1954 – July 9, 2009

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 will also be displayed around the country when VVMF's mobile exhibit, *The Wall That Heals*, is on display in an honoree's home state.

The 2021 *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 16, 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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