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Nineteen Georgia 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 nineteen from Georgia, 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 Georgia:

[William Eugene Ayers, U.S. Army](#)

Dallas, Ga.

November 12, 1948 – July 17, 2015

[James Randolph Caines, U.S. Marine Corps](#)

Savannah, Ga.

July 19, 1946 – March 10, 2019

[James David Chaney, U.S. Marine Corps](#)

Marietta, Ga.

February 9, 1947 – June 18, 2016

[William E. Childers, U.S. Army](#)

Quitman, Ga.

July 19, 1947 – February 20, 2019

William Covington, U.S. Army

Canton, Ga.

February 10, 1946 – February 5, 2005

Franklin Henry Gould, U.S. Army

Lincolnton, Ga.

April 10, 1938 - October 20, 2009

James M. Heath Sr., U.S. Army

Winston, Ga.

February 12, 1942 – January 30, 2012

Clifton L. Hobbs, U.S. Army

Gibson, Ga.

June 8, 1948 – October 2, 2018

James Samuel Hood, U.S. Army

McCaysville, Ga.

January 21, 1934 – November 25, 2011

Donald L. James Jr., U.S. Army

Woodstock, Ga.

October 4, 1948 – April 25, 2017

Robert Daniel Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps

Auburn, Ga.

April 2, 1949 – February 16, 1982

Gregory Kelly, U.S. Army

Decatur, Ga.

December 14, 1946 – November 14, 2010

Dennis Lavalley, U.S. Army

Lithia Springs, Ga.

February 25, 1949 – October 8, 2019

RV Lee, U.S. Marine Corps

Sylvester, Ga.

May 17, 1932 – June 18, 1998

James Everett Moon, U.S. Army

Douglasville, Ga.

November 24, 1943 – January 29, 2015

Bruce Richard Pearson Sr., U.S. Army

Brunswick, Ga.

February 9, 1947 – December 7, 2017

David Francis Petzelt, U.S. Air Force

Atlanta, Ga.

June 23, 1950 – November 24, 2016

Ronald E. Veasey Sr., U.S. Army

Columbus, Ga.

September 10, 1928 – January 11, 1994

Britt Watson, U.S. Army

Valdosta, Ga.

April 27, 1949 – July 25, 2017

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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