



For Immediate Release
May 25, 2021

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Sixteen Illinois 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 sixteen from Illinois, 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 Illinois:

[Jack G. Beane, U.S. Marine Corps](#)

Aurora, Ill.

April 7, 1949 – August 16, 2017

[Dennis Christian, U.S. Army](#)

Tower Hill, Ill.

December 19, 1948 – October 3, 2019

[David Ray Cox, U.S. Air Force](#)

Beecher City, Ill.

March 8, 1948 – November 16, 2019

[Bernard Phillip Czerwinski, U.S. Army](#)

Chicago, Ill.

September 23, 1942 – February 23, 2014

Patrick Michael Farrell, U.S. Air Force

Galena, Ill.

August 2, 1946 – March 14, 2018

Donald Martin Freeman, U.S. Army

Chicago, Ill.

December 5, 1943 – April 12, 2020

Ed W. Hennessy, U.S. Navy

Oak Lawn, Ill.

May 10, 1945 – November 30, 2020

Edward A. Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps

Pekin, Ill.

June 19, 1949 – October 6, 2020

John Edward Kallas, U.S. Marine Corps

Tinley Park, Ill.

December 14, 1947 – November 24, 2020

Ricky Lee Karls, U.S. Army

Wonderlake, Ill.

August 7, 1950 – September 27, 2012

Jack O. Kuhlman, U.S. Navy

Jacksonville, Ill.

December 19, 1942 – March 15, 2021

Paul Mencinkas, U.S. Army

Cicero, Ill.

November 4, 1946 – September 29, 2007

Michael Patrick Rogers, U.S. Navy

Huntley, Ill.

April 11, 1948 – June 2, 2020

Paul L. Staudenmaier, U.S. Army

Dundee, Ill.

November 7, 1947 – May 20, 2020

Glenn Arthur Vermett Jr., U.S. Army

Woodstock, Ill.

April 21, 1948 – November 11, 2019

John Percy Young, U.S. Marine Corps

Glen Ellyn, Ill.

March 7, 1946 – February 6, 2020

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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