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## **Forty-Four New York 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 forty-four from New York, 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 New York:**

**[Richard L. Anthony, U.S. Marine Corps](#)**

*Auburn, N.Y.*

November 26, 1943 – January 10, 2015

**[Francis Edward Bell Sr., U.S. Marine Corps](#)**

*King Ferry, N.Y.*

October 10, 1944 – July 19, 2016

**[Ronald E. Booth, U.S. Army](#)**

*Watertown, N.Y.*

January 23, 1953 – January 4, 2019

**[John F. Bourke, U.S. Navy](#)**

*Bronx, N.Y.*

March 30, 1948 – April 4, 2017

**Terry Lynn Cobey, U.S. Navy**

*Auburn, N.Y.*

January 3, 1947 – July 8, 2011

**Brian G. Conley, U.S. Army**

*Camden, N.Y.*

February 18, 1948 – July 4, 2019

**William Cullen Jr., U.S. Navy**

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

June 3, 1947 – December 9, 2019

**Robert Edward Dall, U.S. Army**

*Middletown, N.Y.*

October 20, 1945 – December 16, 2018

**Thomas F. Diego, U.S. Army**

*Auburn, N.Y.*

September 18, 1947 – August 4, 2019

**James Joseph Dolan Jr., U.S. Marine Corps**

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

July 9, 1950 – April 17, 2019

**Norbert T. Dynski, U.S. Marine Corps**

*Castile, N.Y.*

June 3, 1947 – October 28, 2014

**David Paul Egeressy, U.S. Army**

*Worcester, N.Y.*

August 9, 1947 – November 18, 2013

**James Edward Eggleston Sr., U.S. Marine Corps**

*Glens Falls, N.Y.*

September 29, 1946 – December 5, 2014

**Steven Byers Fish, U.S. Navy**

*Penn Yan, N.Y.*

January 9, 1952 – August 5, 2019

**Joseph M. Fontana, U.S. Marine Corps**

*Islandia, N.Y.*

May 6, 1951 – May 22, 1998

**Charles W. Gonder, U.S. Marine Corps**

*East Meadow, N.Y.*

August 8, 1946 – October 20, 2017

**John Charles Grentzinger Sr., U.S. Marine Corps**

*Rochester, N.Y.*

November 12, 1943 – December 13, 2018

**William Harrison Hart Sr., U.S. Army**

*Rotterdam, N.Y.*

January 19, 1945 – November 24, 2018

**William George Henning, U.S. Marine Corps**

*Queens, N.Y.*

January 1, 1947 – October 17, 2019

**Martin J. Hirsch, U.S. Army**

*Bronx, N.Y.*

October 3, 1945 – April 1, 2019

**Robert Arthur Hunter, U.S. Army**

*Clayton, N.Y.*

November 20, 1951 – May 7, 2011

**Kenneth William Jaros, U.S. Army**

*Castleton on Hudson, N.Y.*

August 17, 1946 – July 14, 1994

**Lee Rowe Kohler, U.S. Marine Corps**

*East Quogue, N.Y.*

December 15, 1946 – April 12, 2008

**Earl Richard Mason, U.S. Navy**

*Rome, N.Y.*

February 22, 1944 – August 20, 2008

**Patrick McCarthy, U.S. Army**

*Manhattan, N.Y.*

November 4, 1947 – July 26, 2019

**Michael Thomas McInerney, U.S. Marine Corps**

*West Hempstead, N.Y.*

August 25, 1942 – November 9, 1985

**Dennis Robert Michalek, U.S. Army**

*Uniondale, N.Y.*

January 27, 1947 – September 28, 2018

**Thomas Dimitris Mikulski, U.S. Army**

*Middletown, N.Y.*

April 11, 1948 – May 17, 2018

**James Patrick Miller, U.S. Army**

*Auburn, N.Y.*

February 25, 1946 – February 20, 2015

**Joseph Paul Mularz, U.S. Army**

*Newfane, N.Y.*

November 13, 1946 – February 26, 2017

**James Joseph O'Connell, U.S. Army**

*Moravia, N.Y.*

July 30, 1940 – February 27, 1987

**Jerome Joseph Palermino, U.S. Air Force**

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

June 14, 1932 – December 31, 2019

**Lawrence Omer Poirier, U.S. Army**

*Auburn, N.Y.*

August 24, 1946 – June 12, 2013

**David L. Raynor, U.S. Marine Corps**

*East Islip, N.Y.*

November 5, 1946 – April 28, 2019

**Gabriel A. Rodriguez, U.S. Army**

*Buffalo, N.Y.*

March 8, 1948 – November 20, 1981

**Daniel F. Schmitt, U.S. Army**

*Hicksville, N.Y.*

July 23, 1950 – October 4, 2017

**Peter D. Schmitt, U.S. Army**

*Hicksville, N.Y.*

January 14, 1942 – October 14, 2008

**Patrick J. Sheehan, U.S. Army**

*Weedsport, N.Y.*

April 26, 1945 – April 29, 1971

**John E. Sheppard, U.S. Army**

*Auburn, N.Y.*

February 26, 1942 – July 14, 2019

**Benjamin C. Tucker, U.S. Navy**

*North Creek, N.Y.*

November 1, 1949 – June 4, 2019

**Michael Patrick Valerie, U.S. Army**

*Queens, N.Y.*

April 8, 1946 – January 3, 2008

**Michael Anthony Verdi, U.S. Marine Corps**

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

May 25, 1947 – June 11, 2019

**Robert J. Wiese, U.S. Army**

*Verplanck, N.Y.*

August 15, 1946 – August 23, 2019

**James G. Woodbury, U.S. Army**

*Queens, N.Y.*

April 30, 1944 – November 4, 2005

VVMF has created a personal remembrance page for each honoree online in the *In Memory* Honor Roll at [www.vvmf.org/honor-roll](http://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](http://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](http://www.vvmf.org) or call 202-393-0090.

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