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## **Fourteen North Carolina 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 fourteen from North Carolina, 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 North Carolina:**

#### **Coy Brevard Bell Jr., U.S. Marine Corps**

*Mebane, N.C.*

September 10, 1946 – September 20, 2018

#### **Clarence Douglas Branson, U.S. Air Force**

*Ramseur, N.C.*

July 9, 1947 – January 8, 1999

#### **Brian Dillon Burke, U.S. Army**

*Wilmington, N.C.*

May 11, 1948 – February 28, 2019

#### **Luckie Douglas Cartwright, U.S. Army**

*Hertford, N.C.*

September 25, 1947 – October 13, 2016

**Paul Junior Dellinger, U.S. Army**

*Conover, N.C.*

March 13, 1927 – August 15, 2019

**Lloyd David Freel, U.S. Air Force**

*Asheville, N.C.*

May 30, 1946 – September 24, 2016

**Ernest Lavon Gilmore, U.S. Army**

*Smithfield, N.C.*

June 5, 1949 – May 28, 1974

**William Anthony Hamilton, U.S. Army**

*Granite Falls, N.C.*

June 17, 1946 – November 8, 2016

**Otis Donald Hudson Jr., U.S. Air Force**

*Raleigh, N.C.*

March 17, 1950 – April 29, 2018

**Fred Rankin Michael Jr., U.S. Army**

*Gibsonville, N.C.*

January 18, 1948 – December 26, 2019

**Bobby Gene Payne, U.S. Air Force**

*Asheville, N.C.*

February 19, 1948 – December 30, 2018

**Lenwood Earle Saunders, U.S. Navy**

*Kinston, N.C.*

January 23, 1939 – May 2, 2016

**Phillip Wade, U.S. Air Force**

*Belmont, N.C.*

September 21, 1947 – January 30, 2019

**Carl W. Wagner, U.S. Army**

*Denver, N.C.*

September 25, 1950 – April 16, 2019

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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