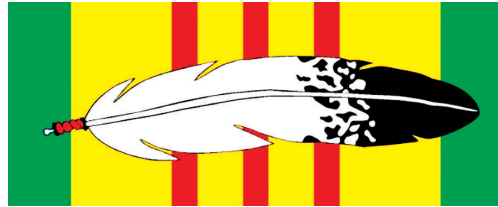


Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans



As Warm Springs veterans advocates are getting ready for the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade and Expo, here are profiles of Warm Springs veterans of the Vietnam era:

Randy Boise, Sr. was drafted into the Army in 1971. His wife Bernie saw him off to training in Ft. Lewis, Washington for boot camp and Advanced Infantry Training.

Afterward, he flew to Vietnam, where to serve in the Second 327 Airborne Air Mobile Unit.

"We were all over with our unit," Randy says. "We patrolled to make sure there was no enemy movement. We didn't get into any firefights like the vets from the 1960s, but we had a lot of hit and runs. They'd fire at us and then disappear."

Randy is affected by the war from Agent Orange, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and other ailments. "PTSD caused me a lot of problems when I got home," he says.

After being denied benefits, Randy is still working on getting medical care. Having attend the first two Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans events Randy says,

"I'm glad that people are showing there are no regrets toward those who served over there. The earlier ones were called 'baby killers.' That affected everyone who served after them. It took me 40 years to seek help. I didn't know what I was suffering from. Any family members of a veteran should help them to seek help."

Alfred Smith Jr. served in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1965 in ground surveillance (radar) and in field communications.

He completed basic training and advanced infantry training in Ft. Ord, California, and then jump school in Ft. Benning, California.

"The discipline and the experience made me grow up," Alfred says.

In 1965, right after the Cuban Missile Crisis, Alfred was sent to the Dominican Republic with the 82nd Airborne Division. He related, "They locked us in the barracks for four weeks before we got deployed, telling us we were on Immediate Ready Force. I thought we were going to Vietnam."

At the Dominican Republic he served as a bodyguard for the battalion commander. "We took a walk into the town and were pinned down by gunfire. The Dominicans didn't want us there," Alfred says.

Another less threatening encounter took place at the PX: "I saw a guy with one of those basketball jackets labelled 'Toppenish.' He said he was Yakama. His name is John Winnier. He was in the barracks next to me. Another guy was in the same unit as I was, from South Dakota, by the name of Raymond Patenoid."

Around 1964, Alfred and the entire 82nd Airborne Unit jumped out of a C-130 division for the change of command. His unit jumped first and got to watch the whole division of 10,000 jump in to the drop zone called Sicily.

"It sure looked pretty," he says. "Some 50- or 60,000 of them died in Vietnam—For what?"

On his return: "I flew into Portland, and then took a bus home to Warm Springs. I walked down to my sister Louise Langley's home, where I got a pretty good greeting."

About the reception of other Vietnam veterans, Alfred says, "I remember watching the protesters on the news, spitting on them."

Alfred adds, "About two years ago I got in touch with two of my buddies. One was in Portland and the other in Illinois. We would get together for the weekend for a cook out."

Alfred comes from a long line of veterans. On his mother's side, Jake Thomas served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Calvary and helped capture Captain Jack. "My father Alfred Smith Sr. served in Army in World War I. My brother Russel Smith was in the Navy, and was on two ships that sunk. He was wounded twice and received two purple hearts.

"My brother Roscoe Smith served in the Navy in World War II in the Battle of the Coral Sea on the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. That aircraft carrier was sunk in Okinawa."

He continues, "We've traced our family tree clear back to the Battle of Waterloo."

The effects of war on Alfred came in the forms of hearing loss and PTSD. He says, "I don't like to be around crowds. I'm basically a loner. If you're in a war, you go through a lot of bad things. I noticed symptoms of PTSD in my brothers."

"Two years ago, during the first Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade, I received a card made by a young child. In it she said that she wanted to go in to the military. I still have that card she drew."

Charles Tailfeathers Sr. enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1968 at Butte, Montana. "My family didn't know that I enlisted," Charles says.

"In my family, my first cousin Ronald Windy Boy was an Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Sam Vernon Windy Boy Jr. served in the Navy, and my uncle John Windy Boy was an Army veteran who served in Germany."

Charles travelled to Vietnam by commercial airline and landed in Da Nang. "We were stationed one-eighth of a mile from the airport. The first thing we did was to set up our camp security system, then we moved some Seabees to other areas within five miles of Da Nang.

"There were helicopters flying over us 24-seven, along with rocket attacks."

Besides security duty and night combat, Charles flew into the demilitarization zone—the DMZ—taking in equipment and working on tanks.

While in Da Nang, Charles met his cousin from Rocky Boy, Montana, whom he recalls "strolling into our camp saying, 'I heard you were here!'" His cousin went on to China Beach.

Upon his return to the U.S., Charles was met at the California airport by protesters who threw eggs on the uniformed men and made derogatory remarks. Upon discharge, he made his way back to Rocky Boy, where he was welcomed by 30 below zero temperatures.

The reception at home was a stark contrast to the landing in California. "It was awesome," Charles says. "They put on a powwow and ceremonies to welcome us home."

The effects of war on Charles are still felt today. "The dreams are still there," he says. "After these many years the PTSD is still there. I like to help the veterans no matter where I go. That's why I hold a Veterans Summit every summer and am active with local veterans."

Charles is the post commander of the Eugene "Cougar" Greene Sr. American Legion Post. "I do my best to help veterans understand their benefits, and be familiar organizations like the Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs, American Legion, and tribal veterans representatives. Veterans must get the important things like medical benefits." Charles closed by saying, "Some hate the government because of the issues they have with it. The government owes veterans gratitude, the benefits they deserve."

— Susan Guerin
Ladies Auxiliary

Warm Springs Veterans of the Vietnam era

These are the Vietnam War era veterans of Warm Springs:

Lloyd Adam
Leroy Allen, Sr.
Tracy Arthur
Keith Baker
Cecil J. Bettles
Randy Boise, Sr.
Gilbert Brunoe
Garland Brunoe
Ted Brunoe
Charles Calica
Gordon Cannon
Terrance Courtney, Jr.
Daniel Craig, Jr.
Kenneth D. Curry
Ellison David, Sr.
Phillip David
Tony Fuentes
Tony Gilbert, Sr.
David Gonzales
Ray Grabner
Elton Greeley
Hamilton Greeley
Curtis Guerin
Johnnie Guerin
Gaylord Heath
Kirby Heath, Sr.
Leo Hellon
Charles R. Herkshan
Enos Herkshan
Ray Lyle Holiday
Ray Edward Holliday
Marvin Ike, Sr.
Harvey Jim
Wilford Johns, Jr.
D. Kalama
Larson Kalama, Sr.
Ronald Kalama
Ross Kalama, Jr.
Thomas Kalama
Daniel Katchia
Larry Langley
Spud Langnese, III
Calvin Two Bears Lee
Dennis Leonard
Uren Leonars, Jr.
Truman Lumpmouth, Sr.
Richard Macy
Vinson Macy
Daniel Martinez
Francisco Martinez
Henry D. Martinez
Jack McClelland
Ivan McKinley
Duane Miller, Sr.
Everett Miller
Harry Miller
Kenman Miller

Kenman Miller
Frank Mitchell
Jameson Mitchell
Jeff Mitchell
Patrick Mitchell
Charles Moody
Rob Moran
Victor Moses
Johnny James Polk
Jim Quaid
Raphael Queahpama
Melvin Queahpama
Edward Reed
Frederick Reed, Jr.
Jim Sahme
Gerald Sampson, Sr.
Jeffrey Sander, Sr.
Robert Sanders, Sr.
Rick Santos
Richard Scott
Danny Scott
Elmer Scott, Jr.
Nat Shaw
Alfred Smith, Jr.
Bruce Smith
Claude Smith, Jr.
Darryl Smith
Emerson Smith
Janice Smith
Milan Smith, Jr.
Randy Smith
Raymond Gene Smith
Roger Smith
Ronald Smith
Jerry St. Germaine
William C. Stacona
Melvin Stahi, Sr.
Merlin Standing Yellow Horse
Erwin Stwyer
Erland Suppah
Tony Suppah
Fabian Sutterlee, Sr.
Danny Tababoo, Jr.
Charles Tailfeathers, Sr.
James Teeman
Manuel Teeman
Louis Tewee
Willard Tewee
James Thomas
Edwin J. Thomas
Dennis Thompson
Richard Tohet
Eldon Tom
Raymond Tsumpti, Sr.
Lawrence Tufti
Robert Warner, Sr.
Gerald Wewa



3rd Annual
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
Parade & Expo

April 28, 2018
Warm Springs, OR
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12 Meal & Honor Ceremony
12-5 Expo

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