

# THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Frontline

## VIETNAM: IN MURALS AND PHOTOS

### NEW EXHIBIT AT WVM

INSIDE:

New Vietnam

Exhibits /

Vietnam: 30

Years Later /

Remembering

POWs / 2005

Fundraisers /

A Veteran's

Profile /

and more...



David Giffey

**What'll You Do Now?**, part of the *Long Shadow* exhibit, Giffey's murals are based on photos he took in Vietnam.

Photographs have the ability to communicate emotions, messages, and meanings that the written word cannot. They provide us with a sense, albeit small, of what it was like to witness history first-hand. A powerful photo communicates the significant and the subtle and tells the story more effectively than words alone. For decades, combat photographers have done this, putting their own lives on the line for the sake of their craft. Photographs from Vietnam shaped America's opinion of the war, informing and affecting the public in ways previously unseen.

As early as 1961, American reporters and photographers embedded themselves with combat units, flew helicopter missions, and drove up and down the highways of South Vietnam looking for the hottest story. Throughout the war, photographers and reporters came and went, but their work lives on today as a testament to their craft, and, in some cases, their incredible bravery.

Beginning July 12th, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) will host two exhibitions

based on the remarkable photography of the Vietnam War — *Flashback: The Vietnam Photography of Dick Swanson* and *Long Shadow: Memories of Vietnam, the Murals of David Giffey*. The *Flashback* exhibit features 22 prints from the Vietnam War, covering everything from the Tet Offensive to the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. *Long Shadow* contains five very large, brilliantly colored canvas murals along with reproductions of the war photographs Giffey used as inspiration for his work.

# The Bugle

The purpose of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past by means of instructive exhibits and other educational programs.

The Bugle is a publication of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation which serves to further the Museum's mission by providing funds for the acquisition of artifacts, exhibit production, and development of educational programs.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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30 W. Mifflin St.,  
Madison, WI 53703  
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HOURS  
Mon. - Sat.  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.  
(April-September)

## Director's Corner

# VIETNAM: 30 YEARS LATER

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the ending of the Vietnam War. New generations of Americans have grown up without memories of the war in Southeast Asia or the internal divisiveness that it caused within the United States. At the same time, the opening of archives in the former Soviet Union and, to some extent, in China have provided historians with new sources for assessing the conflict. Partially as a consequence, previously held interpretations of the war are being reevaluated.

There exists no widely accepted explanation for the longest war in American History. How did the United States lose the war? Why did the Vietnam conflict last so long? Why were we there? While appearing to lose the war, did we not prevent further Communist advances via the path of revolutionary insurgency? Were we wrong to become involved? These fundamental questions remain unanswered and there are justifications for each. What we do have regarding the history of the Vietnam War is controversy, myth, and popular memory—an ambivalent perspective.

Some of the myths of Vietnam include those associated with environmental disasters caused by Agent Orange, racially charged accusations concerning the disproportionate casualties of African American soldiers, Hollywood generated views about veterans, atrocities perpetuated on civilians, and the battlefield performance of the American GI.

The myths, of course, greatly exaggerate actual circumstances. The facts indicate that Agent Orange, for example, did not transform the countryside into a desert. Rice production rose markedly in South Vietnam until 1975, when



Agent Orange still provokes controversy, 30 years later.

Communist rule coincided with an agricultural collapse. Viet Cong and North Vietnamese shelling, purges, and assassinations were far more hurtful to civilians than American bombing. 86% of American fatalities in Vietnam turned out to be white middle class enlisted men, while two-thirds of the combat troops were volunteers. American GIs defeated their enemies in almost every battle throughout the long period of involvement. When Vietnam veterans returned to the United States, they overwhelmingly reintegrated into society without problems—much like the World War II veterans. Some 97% of the Vietnam veterans received honorable discharges.

Two things do stand out about the Vietnam War. One, it was unconventional—no battle lines, no fronts, no taking of territory. Secondly, the public's eventual distaste for the war colored the sentiments expressed at that time towards those who had served their country. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum expects to continue

developing exhibits and public educational programs about Vietnam. While it is not possible to displace all of the myths that surround the war, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum can help communicate important aspects of the new factually based re-examination of the event.

By Richard H. Zeitlin



## WVMF Outreach

# “BUSEUM” REMEMBERS POWS IN NAZI GERMANY

On May 7th, during the Dane County Farmers' Market, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) hosted the “Buseum,” a retro-fitted school bus featuring an exhibit highlighting Midwest Prisoners of War (POW) in Nazi Germany. Titled “Behind Barbed Wire,” the “Buseum” housed photographs, diaries, and sketches documenting the experiences of soldiers held captive during World War II.

Three former POWs — Frederick Wald, Dr. John Thompson, and Howard Jones — visited the exhibit, met with patrons, and shared their memories of captivity under the Nazi regime.

The exhibit is owned by TRACES, a non-profit educational organization created to gather, preserve and present stories of people from the Midwest and Germany or Austria who encountered each other during World War II. TRACES Director, Michael Luick-Thrams, gave a multimedia presentation focusing on the experiences of POWs, both in the U.S. and in Germany.



A variety of information inside the “Buseum.”

Charlotte Deleste

like the Dane County Farmers' Market.

By Jeff Kollath

## Frontline (Continued)

Swanson worked as a photographer for *Life* magazine in Vietnam for several years, taking some of the war's most striking photos. Drafted into the war, Giffey served as a journalist for the 1st Infantry Division newspaper, *The American Traveler*, reporting on everything from combat missions to holiday visits from Bob Hope. Giffey returned from Vietnam and became an active member of several veterans' organizations, including Vets for Peace. In 1991, using the photos he took in



Soldiers in prayer, part of the photographic exhibit by Dick Swanson.

Dick Swanson

Vietnam as inspiration, Giffey translated his strong feelings about the war into his art, creating the *Long Shadow* series of Vietnam-related murals displayed on the front page.

Both exhibits can be seen at the Museum until December 16, 2005. *Long Shadow* will be the first exhibit housed in the newly remodeled Changing Exhibits gallery, while

*Flashback* can be seen adjacent to the WVM store.

By Jeff Kollath

## Museum Staff

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608.427.1280

INFORMATION  
**608.267.1799**

<http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>

## Upcoming Programs

**Summer Fun at WVM**  
(programs are free-of-charge and held in the 2nd floor Education Center)

**Create Your Own Insignia**  
Thursday, June 23  
10 a.m.

The program will feature a short story and a craft activity, based on the history of insignias.

**Learn How To Be A Photojournalist**  
Thursday, July 18  
10 a.m.

Explore the photography of Dick Swanson, and learn what it takes to capture history on film.

**V-J Day Commemoration**  
Saturday, August 20  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Join us for this special celebration of the end of World War II with activities for the entire family. Held at our Farmers' Market booth, on the Capitol Square, across from the Museum.

From the Archives

# VIETNAM ARCHIVES

## PRESERVING VETERANS' STORIES

Interest in researching the Vietnam War is increasing dramatically as the thirtieth anniversary of its end is celebrated this year. The WVM Research Center holds numerous collections relating to all aspects of the conflict. In addition to books, maps, posters, and videos, the archives hold several significant manuscript collections of Wisconsinites who served in Vietnam. Particularly poignant are four stories of Wisconsin men who died in the war and

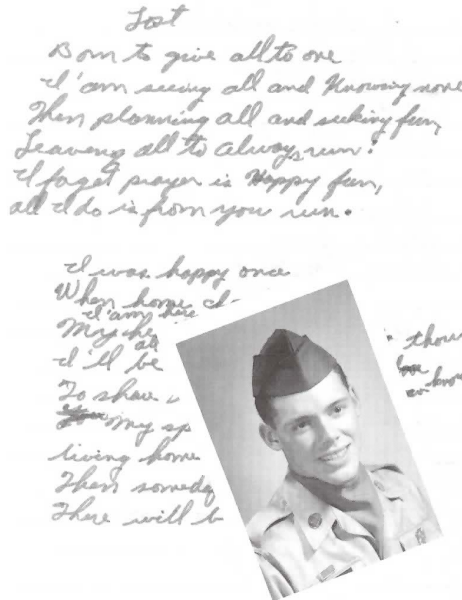
whose names appear on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. These "Stories from the Wall," housed in the WVM Research Center, highlight the tragic aspects of the war.

Walter Draeger, Jr., a captain in the United States Air Force, accepted an assignment to Vietnam as a military advisor. He arrived in mid-1964 and, flying an A-1 Skyraider, provided aerial cover for South Vietnamese infantry forces. On April 4th of that year, Draeger was shot down during a mission near the South China Sea, becoming the first Wisconsin pilot killed in Vietnam. Rescue teams were unable to find his remains. Draeger's family donated his materials to the WVM in 1997. The Walter Draeger Papers (WVM Mss 731) include the official notifications his family received upon his death, paperwork concerning the disposition of his belongings, flight logs, and a few letters that he wrote home to his parents. In

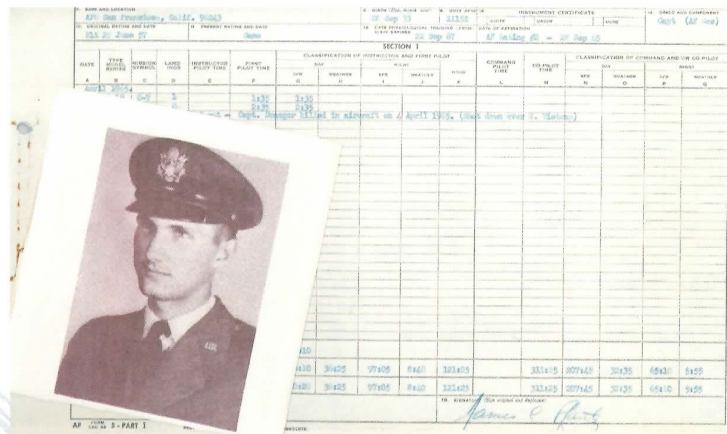
addition, there is a letter the family received from the Department of Defense in 1996 that confirmed the location of his remains by using North Vietnamese documents.

The papers of George Carr (WVM Mss 686) reveal a young man overwhelmed by the chaotic surroundings he found in Vietnam. Carr served in the 4th Battalion of the 42nd Artillery in Vietnam. The letters he wrote home to his family reveal the deep concern he felt for the welfare of the Vietnamese people. He volunteered to be part of a Civil Affairs team that assisted some Montagnard villagers in building a concrete spillway to help purify their water supply. The team used hand grenades to create trenches and, on May 27, 1967, two of the grenades failed to detonate. In the course of securing the area, the grenades suddenly exploded, killing Carr. His collection contains many letters that he wrote home to his family, as well as poetry that he wrote during his service. Official correspondence from the Army provide the details of his death, the disposition of his personal belongings, and photographs.

A lieutenant in the Navy, William H. Murphy III (WVM Mss 50) took part in a cooperative venture between the Navy and the Army by serving as a helicopter door gunner with the 1st Cavalry. He was manning the right door machine gun on a reconnaissance flight near the Bong Song River on November 19, 1967 when his helicopter



George Carr wrote poems while serving in Vietnam.



A flight log shows the date of Walter Draeger's death in combat.

engaged enemy troops on the ground. During the course of the firefight, Murphy's aircraft was hit and crashed, leaving

WVMF News

# GOLF AND GIVING BUILD PROGRAMS AT WVM

Time to hit the links! The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation's first annual golf outing fundraiser will tee off on Monday, July 18th at Cherokee Country Club in Madison. The tournament is sponsored by the Forest County Potawatomi Nation, and will raise funds for educational programs and exhibits at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

The "best ball" tournament begins at 1 p.m., rain or shine. The cost is \$125/person or \$500/foursome and lunch and dinner are included. This is your chance to show off your Tiger Woods-like skills, especially at the hole-in-one where you could win a new car! There are still foursomes available, and a few openings for hole sponsors. For more information on the golf outing, please contact Jennifer Dahl at 608.264.6086.

By Charlotte Deleste

## From the Archives (Continued)

no survivors. His materials were donated to the WVM some thirty years later through his late mother's estate. Among the letters that Murphy sent home to her is one written just three days before his tragic death. Other materials include a letter of condolence from President Johnson, death insurance and benefit forms, papers concerning his burial, and a list detailing the contents of his wallet.

A Walworth, Wisconsin native, Kent Longmire (WVM Mss 727) served with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He was killed in action on April 20, 1970. Among his papers are conflicting reports as to the cause of his death. An official casualty report stated that Longmire was killed by small arms fire while a letter to Longmire's parents from one of his friends reported that he was killed by a claymore. Also

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation (WVMF), is wrapping up its spring appeal campaign. W. Jerome Frautschi, a Navy veteran and the founder of Overture Center for the Arts, chaired the appeal, urging donors to help him build a cultural district in downtown Madison. "I'm pleased that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is one block from Overture Center. The Veterans Museum provides award-winning exhibits and programming free-of-charge to all visitors. It is a major educational component of Madison's Cultural Arts District," he told donors. WVMF is grateful to Frautschi for his support of our mission to affirm, acknowledge and commemorate Wisconsin veterans.

All funds raised by WVMF support the Museum's educational programs and exhibits. Donations can be made in honor of a veteran. To donate, use the sidebar on page 7, or go online to [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com).

By Laura Kocum

included in this collection are condolence letters from President Richard Nixon and Wisconsin politicians, a letter sent from Longmire's parents that was returned unopened after his death, and photographs from his funeral which include two open casket shots.

WVM staff encourages all Vietnam veterans to donate their materials to the Research

Center. By seeing that their letters, maps, films, photographs, and other military papers are preserved, veterans also ensure that future generations will be able to see the full picture of the Vietnam War. Contact Gayle Martinson at 608.261.0536 to discuss donation and the oral history program.

By Russ Horton

## Upcoming Exhibits

**Flashback: The Vietnam Photography of Dick Swanson**  
July 12 - December 16  
Museum Lobby

Learn about the Vietnam War through the photographs of former *Life* magazine Vietnam correspondent Dick Swanson. Twenty-two photographs examine the war from a variety of perspectives, from the soldiers in the field to the Vietnamese peasantry displaced by the fighting.

**Long Shadow: Memories of Vietnam - the Murals of David Giffey**  
July 12 - December 16  
Changing Exhibits Gallery

View five vibrantly colored murals painted by local artist and Vietnam veteran David Giffey. Giffey used his own combat experiences, personal journals, and photos he took in Vietnam as the inspiration for these magnificent paintings.

REPORT OF CASUALTY		DATE PREPARED
(AR 600-10)		28 Apr 70
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization)		
LONGMIRE, KENT WILLIAM; 390-50-3083; SGT; RA; HHC, 1ST BN, 506TH INF,		
101ST ABN DIV (AMTB), VIETNAM		
2. CASUALTY STATUS		
KILLED in action in Vietnam on April 1970.		
SP4 Kent W. Longmire was posthumously to grade of SGT E5, AUS, as of 19 April 1970.		
amended. Pay is that of E4 since additional pay Vietnam on 2 September 1969.		
3. D.O.B.		
4. DATE		
5. A		
6. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		
390-		
7. STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME		
Walworth, Wisconsin		
8. BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY CHECK IF APPLICABLE		
\$231.60 <input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW		
9. OFFICER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:		
KENNETH G. WICKHAM		
Major General, USA		
The Adjutant General		
General is an official certificate of death. It replaces or other claims where proof of death is required those agencies are automatically furnished.		
10. FORM 1, AUG 68		



Casualty report for Kent Longmire

WVM Mss 727

## Curator's Chronicles

# VIETNAM: BRINGING IT OUT OF THE ATTIC

With the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon and end of the Vietnam War, it is worth discussing the need to preserve materials from that conflict. Well-pre-

pared issue. Though berets were non-regulation for the U.S. Navy, Mr. Miller could wear them because of his advisory status.

After graduating from law school in 1965, Jim Kurtz hoped he would fulfill his military obligation serving with the Judge Advocate General. Instead, he found himself assigned as a line officer with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. Following a stint as a platoon leader, Kurtz became battalion adjutant. Upon promotion to captain in late 1966, a buddy had his Vietnamese girlfriend embroider a jacket for Kurtz. Before donating the jacket to the Museum, Kurtz wore it for garden work.

Arriving in Vietnam in 1970, Ed Beauchamp, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division, noticed the camouflage uniforms worn in rear areas. Interested in obtaining a set, the soldiers informed him the uniforms were issue and he would receive them at his unit. This turned out not to be the case. They were not readily available in the field and it took Beauchamp months of sorting through laundry ship-

ments before he was able to locate two used sets. He alternated wearing the uniforms during field operations through the end of his tour.



WWM Object Collections

**Beret worn by Ken Miller as a Junk Force advisor during Operation Market Time, 1965-1966.**

served materials enable researchers to better understand the conflict, and the experiences of Wisconsin veterans. The vast majority of objects donated to the Veterans Museum come from veterans who are well past their time in service. It is very beneficial to receive material while the veteran is able to recount their use of field uniforms and equipment. In this article, we will consider the diversity of uniforms used by U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam conflict through three recently donated collections.

Ken Miller, U.S.N. (Ret.), served two tours in Vietnam. Working as an advisor, he participated in Operation Market Time, interdicting the shipment of supplies by water from North Vietnam. In his second tour, he trained his South Vietnamese counterparts in the operation and maintenance of river patrol boats. During both tours, he wore the black beret of the South Vietnamese Navy. The beret worn during his first tour is of local manufacture, while the second was Vietnamese



WWM Object Collections

**Jim Kurtz's tropical coat with non-regulation direct embroidered insignia.**

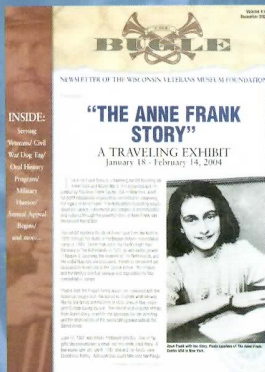
It is primarily field uniforms and equipment that are of interest to the Museum. These pieces are far less likely to survive and therefore more unique. I hope this encourages those veterans who might have material relating to their Vietnam service to donate to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

**By Bill Brewster**



WWM Object Collections

**Camouflage coat worn by recon platoon member Ed Beauchamp.**



Stay informed  
on WVM  
programs and  
exhibits

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and address to:

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WVM Education

# A VETERAN'S PROFILE

## LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

On April 28th, a group of students had the opportunity to become reporters for an hour at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) during a living history program. The students interviewed Specialist Jake Powers about his military service in Kuwait.

The program was part of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' annual "Take Your Child To Work Day." During this amazing program, Powers, an Iraqi Freedom veteran, shared his experiences while serving with the 829th Engineer Team in the Army National Guard.



Specialist Jake Powers discusses Kuwait.

Powers became the third veteran in his family and is proud of what he has accomplished.

The kids listened intently to Powers' experiences in Iraq as he explained his duties of performing maintenance on vehicles, operating instructional equipment and improving conditions at U.S. military camps. During leisure time, soldiers would play cards, watch movies, work out, relax and try to stay cool in the blazing heat. Powers had an answer and interesting story for every question the students asked.

He explained, "Doing these living history programs is important to let people know of the service and sacrifices made by these individuals. Being a veteran has made me a better person and now I feel it is something to be proud of. So remember when you thank a veteran for their service, it really does mean a lot to them. It felt incredible when the children thanked me. It really has impacted my life and I will never forget it."

Charlotte Debeste

Powers enlisted with the National Guard after serving four years of active duty in the U.S. Army. He felt it was his duty to defend his country. His grandfather was a WWII veteran with the U.S. Army and Powers always wanted to follow in his footsteps.

On February 9, 2003, Powers attended his grandfather's funeral. Just as the family returned from an emotionally exhausting trip, he got a fateful phone call. He was called to serve his country, just as his grandfather had done. "I was already at rock bot-

tom losing my grandfather. Now I had to deal with leaving my family, friends and enter a whole different world. I was so afraid, not knowing what to expect," he said.

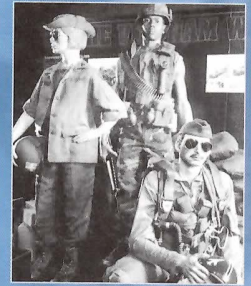


Students salute Specialist Jake Powers for a job well done.

Jennifer Dahl

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum strives to provide ongoing programs to honor veterans and educate the public. For more information on the Museum's living history programs, please contact Jennifer Dahl at 608.264.6086 or [jennifer.dahl@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:jennifer.dahl@dva.state.wi.us).

By Jennifer Dahl



### Commemorate Those Who Served

Help keep the history of Wisconsin's veterans alive by contributing to the educational programs and exhibits of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

### SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

#### DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Please send your contributions along with your name and address to:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation  
P.O. Box 2657  
Madison, WI  
53701-2657

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

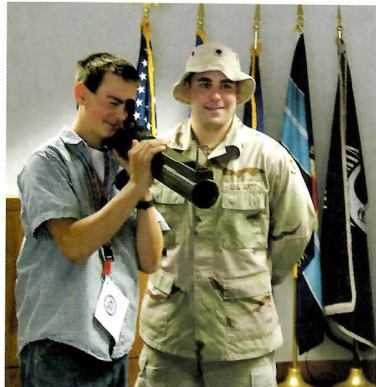
State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amt.: \_\_\_\_\_

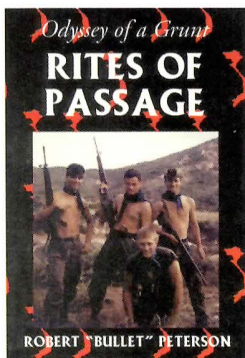
In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Dahl



A student looks at military equipment.

From the Gift Shop



**Rites of Passage:  
Odyssey of a Grunt**

Robert Peterson  
\$14.95

A powerful account of Wisconsin veteran Robert "Bullet" Peterson's tour of duty in Vietnam. His story records the experiences and emotions he encountered while fighting a war he had begun to question. For those who were there, the book is likely to trigger memories both painful and pleasurable. For those who didn't go, we stand alongside Peterson as he dodges sniper fire or suffers the loss of a comrade.



**Wisconsin At War**

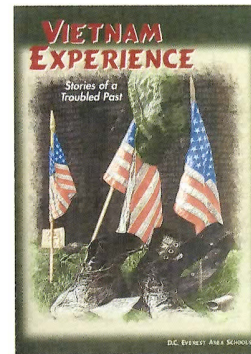
James F. McIntosh M.D.  
\$19.95

This book contains the personal accounts of 220 colorful Wisconsin warriors in eras from General Black Jack Pershing's 1916 Mexican Punitive Expedition to Operation Desert Storm. This book makes a real contribution to understanding the sacrifices that Wisconsin veterans made while serving in the armed forces.

**Vietnam Experience:  
Stories of a Troubled Past**

D.C. Everest Area Schools  
\$26.95

In this book you will read incredible stories from nurses, helicopter pilots, grunts, and support soldiers. You will also read essays, journals, and poems from high school sophomores who interviewed the veterans and spent a good portion of the semester reading and learning about the Vietnam experience.



# The Bugle

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation  
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