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**From:** The Vasbys <kvasby@smallbytes.net>  
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## Lincoln High Newsletter

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**This week's topic:**

**Military Service**

**and responses:**

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Barbara Cammack

We have the Traveling Vietnam Wall here for three days in The Villages, Florida. Each morning, we will have a color guard flag raising. There is probably the largest concentration of vets here than in any other area. The VFW has over 5000 members and there are other posts nearby as well. Many folks line their drives for Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day with small flags. Several times a year they do Honor Flights to Washington DC, virtual flights for those unable to travel, and last month they went to a prison to do a virtual honor flight. We have a recreation center called "Eisenhower" which has wonderful memorabilia from many wars--uniforms, flags, rations, awards, letters, photos and, of course, some nice remembrances of Ike himself. The governor has presented awards to many vets at this facility. Veterans are truly recognized and remembered here!

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Chris Gorski

Was drafted in January 1967. I then enlisted for an additional year after basic training. My branch was the Army's 1st and 5th Special Forces Groups, Green Beret; Primary MOS was 11F, Recon; Secondary MOS was 26P20 Radio Propagation. I did two tours in Vietnam, 1968 and 1969. I was proud to serve my country and was proud to have helped to limit oppression and genocide. Today's troops have it much more difficult because they could be ordered to serve numerous tours in varying hot spots, whereas my second tour was voluntary. Came away with a much greater appreciation for God's gift of life and with the belief that we can never stand by and do nothing when innocent men, women and children are savagely killed for their beliefs. Genocide still occurs around the world and I am an avid supporter of doing whatever we can to stop it. My military experience reinforced this belief.

My sincere thanks to you other veterans. Take pride in your service. You've earned it.

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Rich Anderson - [dianeandrich@charter.net](mailto:dianeandrich@charter.net)

We will be at our granddaughter's high school, Newman (Wausau) on Veteran's Day. As they are having a lunch for the Veteran's. A table will be set up, and asked to bring memorabilia from the Navy days. Been busy collecting our scrapbooks from the JFK CVA 67.

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Chuck Hinners - Dataw Island, South Carolina - [Chuck@crgfinancialconsulting.com](mailto:Chuck@crgfinancialconsulting.com)

I was in the Army at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri from April 22, 1970 until December 15, 1971

After a semester of Law School, we learned that the draft would be changed to a lottery system

Lillian Hornigold ran the Draft Board in Rapids and told me that because I had student deferments through college, I would be drafted in June of 1970.

The lottery would not apply to anyone who had received four or more years of student deferments

The draft lottery was held on December 12, 1969 and I drew #37

Lucky Lager was the Army recruiter in Rapids and I enlisted for a three year tour to become a military intelligence officer.

Fort Leonard Wood Missouri was the nearest basic training facility.

Huettl Bus Line from Appleton had service from the Dixon Hotel to Milwaukee and I left on April 21.

We were boarded at the Eagle Hotel, a half-star establishment on the north side of Milwaukee near AFEES (Armed Forces Examination and Entrance Station).

On April 22 we were sworn into the Army and boarded a nice Army bus for the ride to Mitchell field. The bus driver was SP4 Wawrzynek who hailed from the south side of Milwaukee and drove the daily shipment of willies to the airport. Nice duty if you can get it.

The flight from Mitchell to St Louis lasted just over an hour but we got a light dinner on the flight to Lambert Field in St Louis.

Lots of Army guys in uniform to see at Lambert, but we boarded a shuttle bus for the trip to the Greyhound Station.

There I met a buck sergeant returning from "Nam. His name was Zevandah Mobley and he was on the way home to Grifton, North Carolina where he still lives to my knowledge. Mobley filled me in on what to expect the first few days of Army Life.

Our bus traveled I-44 to Waynesville, MO, about 10 miles from the Fort Leonard Wood gate. The bus driver instructed Army inductees to "disembark the bus and await the bus to Fort Wood".

We arrived at the Reception Station at 0130 hours and got about three hours of sleep before an announcement blared through the speakers: FIRE GUARDS TURN OUT ALL FIRE LIGHTS, TURN ON ALL BAY LIGHTS, AND WAKE UP ALL B COMPANY RECEPTTES!

We were fitted for uniforms, drew equipment, and awaited assignment to our Basic Training units. I was assigned to A-2-2 which stood for Alpha Company of the Second Battalion, of the Second Basic Combat Training Brigade. The unit was commanded by Captain Larry House whose specialty was Armor. His assistant was Lieutenant Ronald Ailshie. While these guys commanded from above, they had little to do with the troops from day to day.

First Sergeant Paul Edward Duane Gagnon ran the show. He had been to Vietnam for three tours, (four according to accounts of some cadre members). Gagnon's senior drill instructor was Robert Smith, a ruddy faced E-7 who Gagnon claimed had six tours in 'Nam, and served in Korea, and World War II.

Our company clerk who was from Stevens Point showed me his PD Card. Smith would have been 15 had he served in WWII, but I never discussed the math with Gagnon or Smith, since the story was a good one though probably a stretch.

Platoon Sergeants were Ernest Farley, Timothy Meador and Merlin Calmer. They were assisted by Sergeants Michael Higgins and Mickey Oliver. All had at least one tour in 'Nam.

Basic training lasted 8 weeks and then it was on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for another eight weeks. Half of our company was made up of draftees mostly from Illinois and Missouri. The other 49% were National Guardsmen from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. I was the only one who enlisted and that got me appointed platoon guide by Sergeant Farley. Farley jacked his boot up my butt for what seemed a decade until I learned to take a thirty inch step. We learned neat marching songs all around the subject of becoming airborne rangers which I didn't.

Obviously, I enjoyed my time in the Army. They didn't need any of us who enlisted to become officers, so most of us served between 20 and 22 months.

These days I hang out at the golf course and have a number of friends who served with distinction. Our island is populated by a bunch of grumpy guys like me who can shoot. We are surrounded by Marines at Parris Island and The Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort, SC. The defense of our country is the single most important use of federal power. The rest of the alphabet soup agencies cooked up over the last 100 years should be euthanized in my opinion, since government closes to home is the best for of limited government. Tomorrow we have a golf tournament on our island supporting veterans. It is one charity I support

God Bless our troops and God Bless the United States of America

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Chris Mattheis - [webgolfn@comcast.net](mailto:webgolfn@comcast.net)

Here in Fairfield Glade, Tennessee our Community Club puts on a fabulous evening for Veterans Day. A free meal for all vets and spouses pay \$10. They show slides all evening of what the vets looked like way back when. They serve between 700 and 800 each year. It is great and much appreciated by all of us vets.

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Larry Davis - [larrydavis1@verizon.net](mailto:larrydavis1@verizon.net)

I spent 5 years on active duty with the Air Force and 20 years in the air Force Reserves as an aircraft maintenance officer. The last 17 years I commanded an Organizational Maintenance Squadron at Norton Air Force Base and retired as a Lt. Col.

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**Wolfstyr - Roger Gray?** sent pics of the Highground War Memorial and wants to acknowledge the following vet's service



Special remembrances for Phil Clark (March 1966) from Wisconsin Rapids.  
And Specialist James D Kurtowitz (June 1969 New York) & Sergeant Richard F Salazar (March 1969 California) team members A-333 Chi Ling, Binh Long Province, RVN.

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Toni Weller Olsen - class of '64 - [tonicrafty@gmail.com](mailto:tonicrafty@gmail.com)

I want to say thank you to all the members of the class of '64 who served in the military. We owe you a lot.  
My husband's uncle, Ray Tollefsen, is a living veteran of WW II who resides in Westchester, IL. He's in his early 90's and an inspiration.

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Richard Riley - [rrile6@yahoo.com](mailto:rrile6@yahoo.com)

Today (the 10th) is the Marine corps birthday

On Dec 4 1968 Bill Heilman class of 65 and myself 63 were drafted into the Marines.

Spent 21 months in service and then went from a Sgt to a PFC (PROUD FUCKING CIVILIAN) SEPT 7 1970.  
HERE'S TO ALL THE VETERANS THAT SERVE THEIR COUNTRY. It's too bad that veterans don't get a paid holiday today like the millions of government employees who never served. Happy birthday to all u MARINES and happy nov 11 to all u veterans

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Randy Cox - [wi9cox@gmail.com](mailto:wi9cox@gmail.com)

I was in the army 1966-1969. I enlisted to go to Alaska, where I spent a year and a half. My MOS was infantry. Spent a few damn cold days in the hills (-72 degrees); such a beautiful place, then 2 months at fort campbell, ky. before going to vietnam.

There I carried an m-60 machinegun, was company armorer for awhile. Saw death and suffering and even stopped some civilians from getting killed (no medals for that though but have satisfaction), then back to civilian.

Being young and dumb I didn't think of the military one way or the other, but now I see the military as a puppet for the rich and the politicians. My brother Tony Cox was drafted and went to Vietnam as I was leaving. He lives on county Z, big flats. He's paying the price for his tour of duty. Anyhow thats it. Have a nice day.

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The Editor - Kent Vasby [kvasby@smallbytes.net](mailto:kvasby@smallbytes.net)

I reported to USAF Officer's Training at Lackland just 3 days after graduating from Whitewater in 62. From there I went to my first duty station, Mt. Laguna, CA. And then back to Tyndall AFB a month later for radar controller training. After spending another year a half at Mt. Laguna, I was sent to Giebelstadt AB in Germany where I spent the next three years talking to airplanes and watching the Russians play over in E Germany.

Joined the Air Guard (128th Tac Control Sqdn) in Milwaukee in 1971. Back then it was a "draft dodger" unit with a WWII radar and alot of the troops wore wigs to hide their long hair.

That all changed when Reagan became president and we received a brand new radar from Westinghouse and were now expected to be combat ready to go anywhere in the world.

Which we did! To Germany in 1981 for a Reforger exercise and then to Cold Lake CFB in Canada for a "Cold Flag" exercise.

I participated in NATO exercises in Denmark, Italy, and Gibraltar as well as domestic exercises at Volk Field, Kansas, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, New York, etc.

The Guard was no longer a joke! After I retired from the Guard in 87, my guard unit went to Colombia to monitor drug traffic and was sent to Kandahar Air Base in Afghanistan in 2002. Since then, they have gone to Qatar and Kuwait.

I enjoyed my 23 years in the military and felt that we were an asset in keeping the peace.

However, I wouldn't join the military under the current administration which has undermined the morale of the armed services beyond belief. Nuff said for this newsletter. If you'd like to read more about my reasoning, subscribe to my Military Newsletter.