

AVEL VIETNAM

Newsletter - September 2017

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

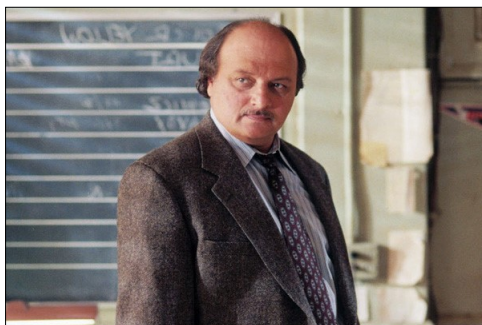
Dennis Franz

Dennis Franz was born in Maywood, Illinois on October 28, 1944. His real name is Dennis Schlachta. He took the name Franz as his stage name because it was his mother's maiden name.

After graduating from college in 1968, Franz was drafted and was trained as an infantryman (11B20). He was sent to Vietnam where he served with Co. E, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). He served in Vietnam for 11 months.

Dennis served in the same company as Edward Sossamon, Avel Central vet Larry Sossamon's brother. Edward was killed in action by a mine in April 1970. Dennis and Ed were both awarded the Air Medal in the same orders on 25 March 1970.

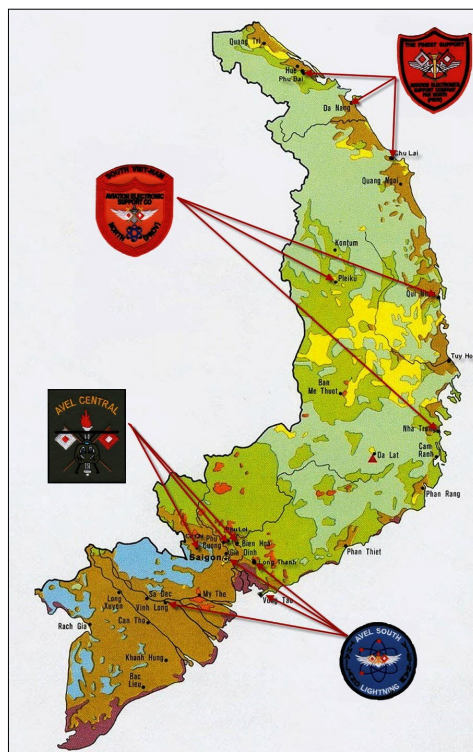
"I was curious about the military service and went into the Army," said Franz. "It was a very traumatic, life-changing experience... I'm not as frivolous as I once was. I experienced death over there, and losing friends. I got as close to being shot as I care to. I could feel and hear bullets whizzing over my head, and that shakes you up quite a bit."



"It was the loneliest, most depressing, frustrating time," he said in a 1995 interview. "It was life-altering. I came back a much different person than when I left, much more serious. I left my youth over there."

Afterwards, Franz became a postman -- and, by his own admission, not a very good one. Short, bald, overweight and scrappy, he decided to establish himself as a character actor, making the rounds of Windy City casting agencies in search of film work.

Franz began his acting career at Chicago's Organic Theater Company. Although he has in the past performed Shakespeare, his appearance led to his being typecast early in his career as a police officer. (By Franz's own count, the character of Andy Sipowicz was his 28th role as a police officer). He has also guest starred in shows such as The A-Team. Other major roles were on the television series Hill Street Blues in which he played two characters over the run of that show. Franz first played the role of Detective Sal Benedetto, a corrupt cop in the 1983 season, who later kills himself.



Ed Sossamon
KIA, 16 April 1970

Don't forget to join us on Facebook. Search for the group: AVEL Vietnam.



His success on "NYPD Blue" highlighted his entire career. He was nominated six times and won four Emmys for "Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series."

Since the conclusion of "NYPD Blue," Franz has largely stepped away from the spotlight. Aside from enjoying retirement, he's been active in promoting numerous causes such as breast and ovarian cancer research, RADD (Recording Artists, Actors, and Athletes Against Drunk Driving), wildlife preservation, and more.

Welcome Home Dennis!

IN-COUNTRY



RUMOR HAD IT, IT ONLY TOOK TWO OF THEM
TO ROLL UP A MOSQUITO NET...(IF YOU HAD ONE)!

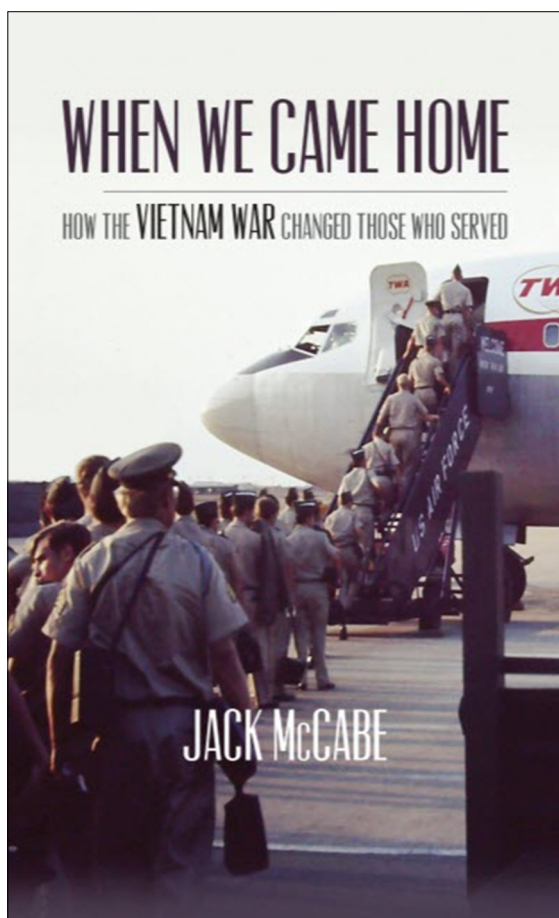
IN-COUNTRY



NOT GOING ANYWHERE FOR A WHILE?
(APOLOGIES TO SNICKERS)

WHEN WE CAME HOME

by Jack McCabe



Interwoven with the author's own experiences and reflections on the Vietnam War are the personal narratives from Vietnam veterans on how their lives, emotions, and health were impacted by the war and by how they were treated when they came home. Many of those that served in the Vietnam War are still dealing with its effects. In this important book, for which more than 150 American and Australian Vietnam veterans were interviewed, a strong light is shone on the lingering legacy of the war. These Vietnam veterans describe not the war itself, but how their lives were changed by it and by the reception afforded them when they came home. Some volunteered, others were drafted. Some saw combat, others dealt with its aftermath. Some thrived after coming home from Vietnam. Still, others led successful lives but have had to deal with the effects of PTSD, Agent Orange illnesses and moral injuries. A great many struggled to reclaim their places in civilian life. The horrors and shock of war were compounded by the "welcome" home—many Vietnam veterans received hostile receptions from their own people and the organizations that should have provided support. Those that came home from Vietnam had to move on as best they could, on their own terms. Here are their stories.

Signed copies \$17.99 + \$3.12 postage ordered direct from Jack McCabe. jmccabe51@gmail.com.

Available on Amazon in soft cover and KIndle

AVEL “Gathering” Update 2017

Hospitality Room: We will be providing beverages and snacks in the Hospitality Room at no charge thanks to the donations of Avel veterans! Beer wine, spirits and soft drinks. Orbin will bring his projector so we can watch the slide show of each company during the course of the Gathering.

Bring any personal items you would like to display but no live ordinance please. The room will be secured at night.

Banquet: Wednesday, October 12th we will have a group dinner at the hotel for those that want to attend. The hotel is setting up a buffet for us which will include a the salad bar, a choice of two entrees, two starches, two vegetables, soup, rolls and desert. The cost will be \$32.00 per person including gratuity! I will need an approximate head count. A separate email will follow in September.

Following the group dinner we will adjourn to the Hospitality Room for the playing of the In Memoriam video, closing comments, slide show and final cocktails.

We have 81 people registered so far! That is outstanding!

PLEASE REGISTER on the website if you would like to go.

Dates: 9 October - 12 October 2017

Room Rates: \$101.00/night. We have a rate for the weekend before and after the Gathering at \$139.00/night.

Location: **Town & Country Inn and Suites**
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

Reservations: Call the hotel at 800-334-6660. Tell them you are with the **AVEL Group** and quote the rate.
If you have any problems call Stephen Clarke at 843-329-3304

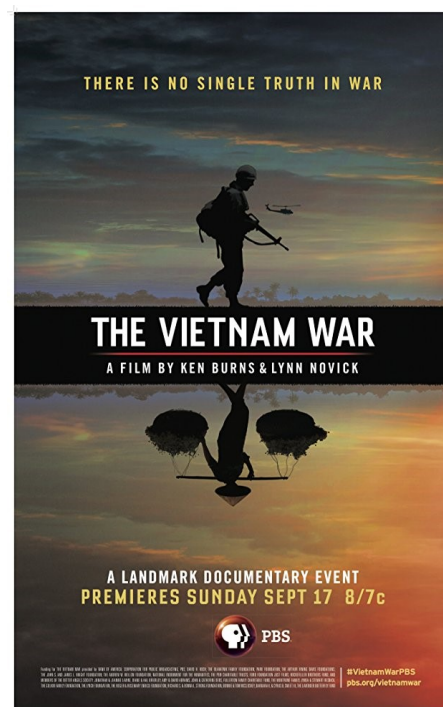
I hope you can make it! Looking forward to seeing you in October!

Ken Burns *The Vietnam War*

The mini-series begins Sunday, 17 September

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick’s ten-part, 18-hour documentary series, **THE VIETNAM WAR**, tells the epic story of one of the most consequential, divisive, and controversial events in American history as it has never before been told on film. Visceral and immersive, the series explores the human dimensions of the war through revelatory testimony of nearly 80 witnesses from all sides—Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as combatants and civilians from North and South Vietnam.

Ten years in the making, the series includes rarely seen and digitally re-mastered archival footage from sources around the globe, photographs taken by some of the most celebrated photojournalists of the 20th Century, historic television broadcasts, evocative home movies, and secret audio recordings from inside the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations. **THE VIETNAM WAR** features more than 100 iconic musical recordings from greatest artists of the era and haunting original music from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross as well as the Silk Road Ensemble featuring Yo-Yo Ma.



The lawsuit quoted a recent scenario in which an Air Force veteran, named Thomas Barden, was a victim of scammers who collected information of Barden from the Defense Department website. The scammers got details of Barden's history in the military service from the site, used it to gain trust from the veteran and conned him into making purchase of a computer software that was fraudulent. Later, they took control of Barden's computer, locking him out of his files until he paid a ransom. Barden refused to pay. The complaint stated that the situation of Barden was no aberration.

Vietnam Veterans of America wants the court to order the Defense Department to put in place security restrictions on the concerned website they also want Barden to be awarded at least \$1,000 in damages.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERAN REGISTEREES

Weitz, Leon E. (SP5)

4091 S. Broad Street

Yardville, NJ 08620

317th Maintenance Company (LEM), Vung Tau: July 2, 1970 - July 29, 1971

ccchoir@optonline.net

MOS: 35R20

Moore, Terry L. (SP5)

1646 Maryland Ave

Bristol, TN 37620

423-956-6155

A Co/ 101st AHB/101st Airborne Division, Camp Eagle, Phu Bai: 1971-1972

tlmoore999@hotmail.com

MOS: 67N20

Army Reserve Retired as a Master Sergeant after 20 years

Comments: Our Avionics guys were great, really smart, one had a Physics degree

Marion, John T. (SSG)

3707 Gardenside Drive

Huntsville, AL 35810

256-859-3682

Avel Central, Phu Loi: 1971-1972

marion8674@bellsouth.net

MOS: 35P40

Also assigned to: 213th Avn Co, 128th Avn Co /

285th Sig Det

Army Retired: Command Sergeant Major

AGENT ORANGE

Arzente, George (SP/5)

4398 Trough Springs Road

Adams, TN 37010

961-216-9776

539th Transportation Co., Phu Loi: July 70 - June 71

hexmate@yahoo.com

Army Retired 2005: CW5

TAPS

None Reported

PHOTOS

None Submitted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL

Submit changes to Jack McCabe so you can continue receiving updates and Newsletters



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