

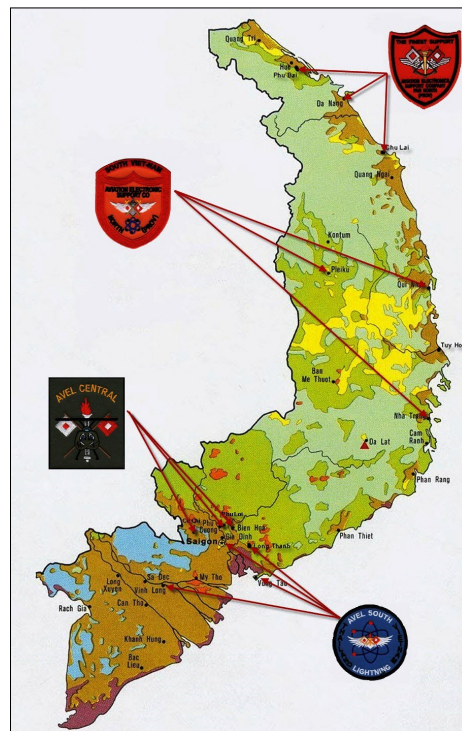
Military Draft Update: The Supreme Court won't review the men-only law.

The Supreme Court said on 7 June that for now it'll be up to Congress, not the court, to decide whether to change the requirement that only men must register for the draft. It's one of the few areas of federal law where men and women are still treated differently. In a statement, three justices said Congress is weighing whether to change the Military Selective Service Act, which requires men but not women to register for the draft when they turn 18. They said that was a reason for the court to kick the matter back to lawmakers.

"It remains to be seen, of course, whether Congress will end gender-based registration under the Military Selective Act," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a statement for herself, Justice Stephen Breyer and Justice Brett Kavanaugh. "But at least for now, the Court's longstanding deference to Congress on matters of national defense and military affairs cautions against granting review while Congress actively weighs the issue." In recent years, bills to require women to register for the draft have been proposed in the House but not gone anywhere. Just last year, however, a congressional commission concluded that the "time is right" to extend the obligation to register to women. The Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the report this year, and Sotomayor pointed to the report and the hearing, suggesting Congress is currently studying the issue.

The question of whether it's unconstitutional to require men but not women to register could be viewed as one with little practical impact. The last time there was a draft was during the Vietnam War, and the military has been all-volunteer since. But women's groups are among those arguing that allowing the male only requirement to stand is harmful. Ria Tabacco Mar, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project, who had urged the court to take up the issue, said that requiring men to register imposes a "serious burden on men that's not being imposed on women.

Men who do not register can lose eligibility for student loans and civil service jobs, and failing to register is also a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison. But Tabacco Mar said the male-only requirement does more than that. "It's also sending a tremendously harmful message that women are less fit than men to serve their country in this particular way and conversely that men are less fit than women to stay home as caregivers in the event of an armed conflict," said Mar, who represents the National Coalition For Men and two individual men who challenged the law. "We think those stereotypes demean both men and women." Even if the draft is never used again, retaining the requirement sends a "really damaging message," she said. On 7 JUN, she urged Congress in a statement to "update the law either by requiring everyone to register for the draft, regardless of their gender, or by not requiring anyone to register." A group of retired senior military officers and the National Organization for Women Foundation were among those that had urged the court to take the case.



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The issue of who has to register for the draft has been to the court before. In 1981, the court voted 6-3 to uphold the men-only registration requirement. At the time, the decision was something of an outlier because the court was regularly invalidating gender-based distinctions in cases about other areas of the law. Many of those cases were brought by the founding director of the ACLU's Women's Rights Project, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who became a justice in 1993.

AVEL and the draft

In a recent article by Pete Poirier on the draft he stated: *“Three provisional avionics companies were established early in the war, later a fourth company was established in I Corps as the Tet Counter Offensive developed. Those companies were to be manned with specialists in electronics who were capable of becoming reliable, skilled technicians who could operate sophisticated electronic test equipment and trouble diagnose equipment failures. They had to be volunteers because of the extended training involved.”* I received several emails from Avel veterans that they, in fact were drafted.

I sent an email to the entire group asking is they enlisted or were drafted. The email was sent to my data base of 390 people. Eleven emails were kicked back. They were either no longer active or my message was marked as spam.

Thirty-three of the 390 responded. This led me to wonder if most ever even read my emails. I will re-evaluate sending out the Newsletter after the first of the year.

Of the thirty three who answered, fifteen enlisted. Ten were drafted and seven were drafted but enlisted for another year to be able to select an MOS. One individual sent an email without any answer.

So, there you have it.

R & R

IN-COUNTRY



SOME FIND RETURNING FROM R&R DIFFICULT.



Bob Rhine & Jack McCabe at Hotel 3. So happy to be back after R & R in Taipei!

China Beach

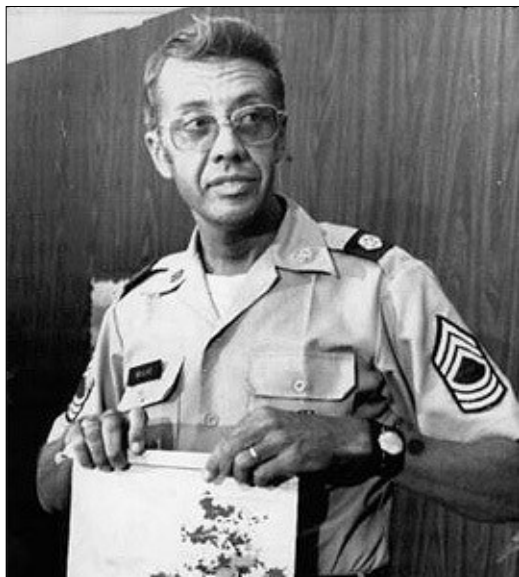
John Sacret Young, the writer and TV and movie producer best known for being the co-creator of the pioneering TV show, *China Beach*, died June 3 at age 75 from brain cancer. Young and William Broyles Jr.—a writer and editor and former U.S. Marine who served in the Vietnam War—conceived of the idea of a weekly TV drama series centering on a group of nurses stationed at an evac hospital near DaNang during the war.

They sold it to ABC, and *China Beach* brought one aspect of the Vietnam War into America's living rooms for three seasons, from 1988-91. Dana Delany who played the main character, nurse McMurphy, received two Best Actress Emmy awards. Marg Helgenberger, in the role of an American prostitute, won one.



In 1980, Young received a Writers Guild Award for his adaptation Philip Caputo's classic Vietnam War memoir, *A Rumor of War*, into a TV miniseries. Young's 2005 memoir, *Remains: Non-Viewable*, deals with the impact of the 1969 death of his cousin Doug, a Marine lance corporal who lost his life in the Vietnam War.

The Last Combat Soldier to Leave Vietnam Was Killed in the 9/11 Attacks



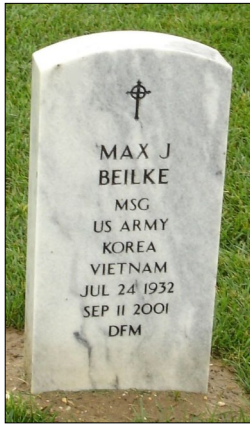
Max Beilke was in the Army for 20 years already by the time he deployed to Vietnam in 1972. His time there would be much shorter than the many others who did tours in the Vietnam War. His last day in Vietnam was the U.S. military's last day in Vietnam. What made his last footstep on Vietnamese soil so unique was that it was captured on tape for the world to see.

On March 29, 1973, Master Sgt. Beilke was given a rattan mat before he boarded a C-130 bound for home. The giver of the gift was Bui Tin, a North Vietnamese observer, there to ensure the last hundred troops at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport left as agreed. Back home, his family watched live as the man they loved, drafted to fight in Korea in 1952, headed for home from the next American war.

His service didn't stop when he landed back in the United States. Beilke retired from the Army and, in the next phase of his life, he worked to support American veterans. Eventually, he became the deputy chief of the Retirement Services Division, with an office in Virginia. But it was part of his duties that brought him to the Pentagon on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

Beilke was meeting with Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude and retired Lt. Col. Gary Smith. Just as they were sitting down to begin talking, United Airlines flight 77 hit the outer ring of the Pentagon.

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The three men never knew what hit them. They were all killed instantly. Traces of their remains could only be found through DNA tests on the disaster site, according to the Beilke family.

Max Beilke was 69 years old. Three months later, his remains were interred at Arlington National Cemetery. The man who had survived the ends of two American wars was one of the first casualties of a new one, the longest one in American history. He left behind a legacy of gentleness and fondness for everyone who met him – including the North Vietnamese colonel sent to ensure he and the other Americans left Vietnam.

Project 100,000



Back in the 1960s during the heart of manpower shortages in the Vietnam war, Secretary of State Robert McNamara convinced the Department of Defense to lower the bar regarding military mental and medical standards.

It's no stunning admission to say that the Vietnam war was not extremely popular and that we had problems putting bodies into uniforms. Project 100,000 opened the doors to thousands of men who should not have been in the military in the first place.

As a result of Project 100,000, recruitment standards were dropped to as low as 10 on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). A perfect score is 99. The legal IQ floor to enlist was a score of 80.

The men entering the service through this new program were officially classified as “New Standard Men”. In unofficial usage, they were known as the “Moron Corps” or “McNamara’s Morons”.

Up to 350,000 men were recruited through this program, some through voluntary enlistments and some through the draft. All Project 100,000 men were sent through normal training, and theoretically, the standards were the same for everyone. The US Army acquired the vast majority (70%) of these troops.

These “New Standard Men” included those with low mental aptitude, otherwise disqualifying physical impairments, those who did not speak any English, and enlistees who would otherwise be considered to be underweight or overweight. Many were illiterate.

Unfortunately, Project 100,000 troops were about three times more likely to be killed in action than other military members. Most did not qualify for technical training that might keep them out of direct combat. Following the war, they had lower incomes and higher rates of divorce than their counterparts.

Rennie Davis, ‘Chicago Seven’ Antiwar Activist, Dies at 80



Rennie Davis, who lived out one of the more quixotic journeys of the 1960s generation when he went from leading opponent of the Vietnam War, as a convicted member of the Chicago Seven, to spokesman for a teenage Indian guru, died on Tuesday, February 2nd at his home in Berthoud, Colo. He was 80.

His wife, Kirsten Liegmann, who announced the death on his Facebook page, said the cause was lymphoma, adding that a large tumor had been discovered only two weeks ago.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

Curtis, James (SP5)
4864 Tall Oaks Dr
Dayton, OH 45432
614 Maintenance Co. (LEM), Tuy Hoa: July 1971 to Apr 1972
Bluebanner47@live.com
MOS: 35L20
Also assigned to 608th Trans Co (Avel Platoon)

TAPS

Oscar Reed
263rd Maintenance Co. (LEM)
Died 6 May 2019. He was 72 years old.

Ken Butler
Avel North
Died 17 April 2019. He was 70 years old.

Robert Kelly
Avel South
Died 10 October 2020. He was 70 years old.

George Essaf
Avel Central, Cu Chi
Died 23 February 2021. He was 73 years old.

PHOTOS

Bob Cancialosi submitted photos of Avel Far North, Red Beach. They are posted on the website.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL/PHONE

None Submitted

Send your change of address and email to jmccabe51@gmail.com

ALL AVEL GATHERING/REUNION 2021

Virginia Beach, Virginia
October 14 - 17, 2021

DoubleTree by Hilton

1900 Pavilion Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-422-8900

Room Rate is \$107.00/night plus tax
This special room rate will be honored 3 days prior and 3 days post event

YOU MUST BE VACCINATED TO ATTEND

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Early Bird, Tuesday October 12th, 2021

Early Bird arrivals can explore Virginia Beach and the area on their own.
There is a lot to see and do.

Wednesday October 13th, 2021

Early Bird arrivals can explore Virginia Beach and the area on their own.
There is a lot to see and do.

Thursday October 14th, 2021

The Hospitality Room will be open and well stocked with adult beverages and snacks!
There will be several possible carpool events.

Friday October 15th, 2021

The Hospitality Room will be open and well stocked with adult beverages and snacks!
Avel will provide a bus to take the group to Colonial Williamsburg

Saturday October 16th, 2021

John Veers Martini Golf Outing
Ladies Luncheon provided by Avel
Group Banquet. Cash bar during dinner. (*Dinner paid by Avel*)
The Hospitality Room will be open after dinner until 23:00

Sunday October 17th, 2021

Final goodbyes and head home until next year

If you are going please register on the website: www.avelvietnam.com

The Reunion cost is \$80.00 per person. Make your checks payable to AVEL REUNION. If we have to cancel the Reunion you will receive a full refund.

Mail your dues to: Jack McCabe
2120 Augusta National Dr.
Denver, NC 28037



**AVEL
VIETNAM**



September/October 2021
