

Raymond F.R. TOMLINSONDistinguished Service Cross

Mr. Tomlinson is a Vietnam Veteran and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He retired from the U. S. Army in 1983 with the rank of Colonel. Mr. Tomlinson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while searching for three Americans missing in action between January 15 and January 17, 1971. Although wounded in the initial encounter, he organized a defensive perimeter to await rescue. When the rescue helicopter was shot down by enemy forces he moved his besieged team to another location. Using night tactics, he successfully avoided detection and the following day organized a successful extraction from the battle area. In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross, he was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He is currently a resident of Huntsville, Alabama.

George E. PATCHSilver Star Medal

Mr. Patch entered military service from South Orange, New Jersey. He retired with the rank of Colonel from the U. S. Army in 1991 after more than 27 years of active service. He received the Silver Star for gallantry in action in South Vietnam on February 14, 1970 when he personally led an attempted rescue mission of US Infantry soldiers pinned down by heavy enemy fire. After destroying an enemy bunker with a hand grenade he was forced to withdraw to his perimeter. He then returned to the area and led his troop in a rout of the enemy forces and completed the rescue. Mr. Patch is a resident of Huntsville, Alabama.

George E. PATCHBronze Star Medal "V"

This US Army veteran distinguished himself by heroism on January 21, 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam. As Troop Commander he deployed his vehicles forward to avoid taking heavy casualties. He then placed his own vehicle in a position to protect his troop and exposed himself to direct hostile fire to ascertain the enemy positions. By doing so he directed effective fire on the enemy causing them to flee the battle.

Zygmund R. JASTREBSKI

Distinguished Flying Cross with
four Oak Leaf Clusters

While serving with the US Air Force in Southeast Asia, Mr. Jastrebski was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with four Oak Leaf Clusters for extraordinary achievement. He distinguished himself on May 18, August 7, August 13, August 22 and September 20, 1972 while participating in strike missions in aerial flight against extremely heavy enemy anti-aircraft fire over North Vietnam. Mr. Jastrebski entered service from Hawthorne, California and he now resides in Huntsville, Alabama.

Ralph J. WEBER III

Distinguished Flying Cross

This veteran of the United States Army entered service from Cincinnati, Ohio. He retired from the US Army in 1992 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. He distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as aircraft commander of a team of gunships on March 11, 1970 while covering the extraction of downed aircrew members. Due to his personal courage, the rescue attempt was successful. He is currently a resident of Madison, Alabama.

Ralph J. WEBER III

Air Medal with Combat "V"

While serving with the US Army in Vietnam Mr. Weber received the Air Medal with Combat "V" for heroic achievement during aerial flight on February 23, 1970. On this date Mr. Weber provided aerial fire support for a downed helicopter. He flew sortie after sortie into the hostile area, placing devastating fire onto the enemy emplacements, resulting in a successful mission.

Wiley N. CHRISTOPHER

Bronze Star Medal WWII

This native of Athens, Alabama served in the United States Army where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic achievement near Epinal and Rambervillers, France from September 20 to 28, 1944. Serving as an Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Commander he repeatedly exposed himself to hostile observation and fire in order to direct his half-tracks to effective fire positions upon enemy emplacements. He was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received in action on September 2 and September 28, 1944. Mr. Christopher has been a resident of Huntsville, Alabama since 1960.

Andrew F. CHRIS

Bronze Star Medal "V"

Corporal Andrew F. Chris served in the U. S. Army during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He was born in Huntsville, Alabama. He received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for heroism in Iraq in June 2003. Corporal Chris was killed in action on June 25, 2003 while manning his automatic weapon and engaging hostile forces. He also received the Purple Heart Medal.

Douglas B. PRESTEGAARD

Bronze Star Medal "V"

This U. S. Army veteran entered service in Lee, Illinois. He served in Vietnam where he earned the Bronze Star Medal with "V" from June 29 through July first, 1969 at Fire Support Base Saigon. As a platoon leader, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire while directing, maneuvering and encouraging his men. Several enemy advances were repelled during this period. He also received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in action. He also served in Kuwait as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Prestegaard is currently a resident of Huntsville, Alabama.