

## Vet Views ... A Series On Life Paths Of Veterans

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graphic design|website design|photographer|writer

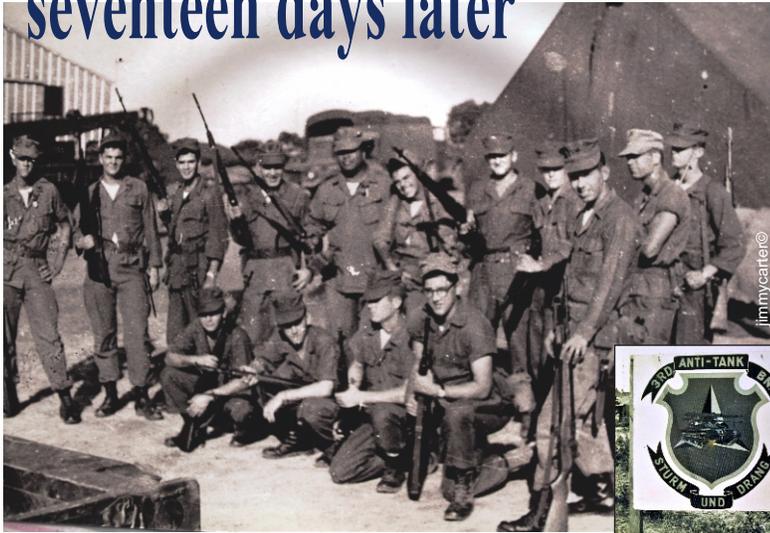
**O**ur country honors our veterans with dedicated dates throughout the year. On **Memorial Day and Veterans Day** I am reminded of all the men, women, and K9's that provide services to our armed forces and wonder what their feelings may be toward these honorary days set aside for them. When these special days pass do your thoughts remain of this special group of American patriots, their families, friends, and their life changing experiences? Has the flag-waving celebration waned until the next national day off?

I have been an advocate for **Vietnam veterans** since the 1960's. Yes, I did join them in the protest groups as a civilian voice for the frequent injustices aimed at these vets during their tour and upon their return to the home front. I experienced a turbulent period in our history that has bruised the souls of numerable vets from that conflict. My husband, Nick, and I joined **Tybee Island's American Legion Post 154** to offer support to vets. Both of our fathers, uncles, and my Grandfather were all in the military. Nick's brothers and cousin were enlisted during the Vietnam era. Nick is an **SAL member, Sons of American Legion**. I am a member of the **ALA, American Legion Auxiliary**. We began volunteering at Post 154 for fund raiser dinners and events. Nick researched and found sources for supplies saving them money so goals may be better attained for veteran causes. Currently, Nick and I have teamed up setting our sights in a new direction to help veterans and the vets at Post 154.

Three years ago I began offering my profession of graphic and website design and marketing to Post 154. An informative website for Post 154 was created including possible useful links for physical and mental health assistance, features special events the Legion family offers the community and shares interesting history bytes. Nick shares interesting websites regarding vets and military history with me for the site. I have been approved by the current commander of Post 154, **Irany, Ron, Vollmer**, to take the website in a new direction. The seed was planted in 2018 after interviewing Ron as Post 154's new commander. I consider it important for members of any organization to know who is at the helm and was thankful that Ron acknowledged the importance. I invite you to read about Ron Vollmer and his background underscoring the meaning of patriotism. A second article followed with the **Navy's birthday** featuring a Navy seaman who retrieved the **Apollo 14** capsule and his life today. My Grandfather's position of statistician for the **Navy's dirigible program** is included. After feedback from readers expressing interest with the aforementioned articles I decided to change Post 154's website treating it more of an electronic newspaper to focus upon all veteran's personal paths. I hope in future articles the inclusion of veteran's significant others, their children and friends about their path of living with and knowing a veteran. I believe it is important to put faces on these selfless souls that have sacrificed their youth for us- This is my personal mission, a never ending series, **putting a face on the word veteran as they share their views on their life paths.**

**I hope you discover a new meaning to the word veteran with these interviews and featured articles perhaps pausing along your life's, path considering what they have faced yesterday and today. Perhaps these series "Vet Views" may encourage you to be supportive of veterans, their families and friends in some way only you can do. Please contact me if you would like to share your path . . . jacque@tybeeislandamericanlegion.org**

# seventeen days later



Seventeen Days Later ... Vet Views  
James N Carter Interview October 2018  
3rd in a series

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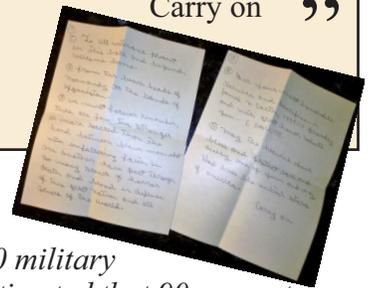
Vietnam veteran, **James N. Carter**, is a member of Tybee Island Georgia's Post 154 along with numerous veteran organizations in Chatham County. He was named the donor of the year, June 2007, for the Vietnam Veterans of America. I met Jimmy on Veterans Day 2015. We participated in the Savannah parade with members of Tybee's Post 154. Being new to Savannah, I was truly amazed at the number of people that lined Savannah's streets. There were hundreds! The amount of veterans along the route were numerous. Savannah is not only a tourist destination it is a military town. In Ohio, my previous home state, Veterans Day went on without much fanfare. Post 154 members walked the lengthy route distributing flags to all and repeating "thank you for your service" to veterans proudly wearing their ball caps indicating their military division along the way. Jimmy Carter rode in John Calvert's vintage WWII "Gene the Jeep" both wearing vintage military uniforms- Calvert in WWII, Jimmy Carter in WWI. Jimmy was armed with his hand written pages- his personal thank you to the veterans. He recited his emotionally charged words to the officials at the reviewing platform ending with a firm salute. He read it again at the opening of a dinner for veterans and their families at Tybee Island's American Legion Post 154 . . . . .





- “ ① To all veterans present in this hall and beyond, welcome home. ② from the beach heads of Normandy to the sands of Afghanistan. ③ we must forever remember, there are few ties stronger or more sacred than the bond between brave men who with unfaltering faith in one another have past(sic) through so many scenes of horror death and blood in defence(sic) of this great nation and all corners of the world. ④ For your most honorable service and sacrifices, I James N Carter, 1999110 proudly and with great honor salute you. ( SALUTE. ⑤ may the heavens above bless and protect each and every one of you, and may God bless the united states of america. ”

Carry on ”



*I realize in his written words, seen above, Jimmy omits specifically women vets. In his day, serving in the military, women were not in combat so to speak. According to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation approximately 11,000 military women were stationed in Vietnam. Nearly all women were volunteers, it was estimated that 90 percent served in the medical field. A follow up to women veterans will be forth coming! If you know of any woman who has served, or is serving, is a significant other or family member of a woman veteran and would like to be interviewed and included in the "Vet Views" series please contact me- [jacque@tybeeislandamericanlegion.org](mailto:jacque@tybeeislandamericanlegion.org)*

To view photos of the Savannah & Tybee Island Veterans Day parades please visit the page POST 154 Salutes Vets On The Post 154 Site



I spoke with **Jimmy Carter in October, 2018** about his own path- his youth before his enlistment, during, and now. Candidly, he spoke of his issues with **PTSD** and how he continues to move forward although, there are those blanket days- where it is just better to stay in bed. He is very appreciative what others do for vets. Are the words, “**thank you for your service**” good enough I ask? Of course he replies with a hearty laugh! Ironically, he continues, now people also say “**thank you for being there**” and I reply “**Thank God you weren't there.**”

He and I share many of the same opinions of **Vietnam** and why we participated in the protests. **Kent State, May 1970**, was in my backyard. It was indeed the turning point of the undeclared “war” with the tragedy of the fallen students and the reveal of cross border ops into Cambodia and Laos. It was after this tragedy that the majority of America began to see a different side of southeast Asia and what was being presented to the American people. This was not “John Wayne” warfare. It was a very different agenda than that of the great world wars. Both of us had studied the history of our involvement in Vietnam for many years. Teaching a graduate class in the 1980’s I discovered that most young students perceived Vietnam as a television war which they could turn off and on at will. Rather than be bitter, Jimmy and I agree it is healthier to stay positive and helpful toward soldiers that maintain their belief to do duty for their country.

Jimmy Carter is an example of how to keep a positive eye on the past by educating people with facts regarding our involvement and actual life experiences. He had a hand in organizing historical accounts at Savannah’s Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> AF Museum. He is open about his journey with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division and readily shares his “book” “***Vietnam Veteran- POW/MIA They Fought For This Country, It's Time This Country Fights For Them***” boldly displayed on the cover. It is a diary of his written letters to politicians and articles about him sharing his life’s experiences and awards for helping other veterans. Contents include actual in-country photos while surviving his deployment in **Da Nang**. It is a strong portrayal of Jimmy turning 19 and landing in Vietnam *seventeen days later*.

**How many more young men and women have “grown up” this way?**



BOND WITH OUR HEROES SO BRAVE.  
KEEP ALIVE THEIR TALES SHAPED BY MEMORY,  
LEST THEIR STORIES FOLLOW THEM TO THE GRAVE.  
BUSY LIVES DON'T EXCUSE OUR INDIFFERENCE.  
GENERATIONS MUST CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER.  
OUR VETERANS WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN  
IF THEY SURVIVE IN THE MIND OF ANOTHER.  
~DICK SANDQUIST

Jimmy shows the cover of his book, *at left*, and a quote he includes inside, *above*.