

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

WHEN?
1960-1975

WHERE?
Wilkes-Barre, PA.



EVENT
Vietnam War

VOCABULARY
POW pungee
MIA

Erected in 1988, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Wilkes-Barre is located on the grounds of the Luzerne County Courthouse. The plaques recognize 83 who were killed in the line of duty in Vietnam as well as six prisoners of war (POW) and missing in action (MIA). The artist, Gerhard Baut, wrote the inscription placed on the memorial:

To those who served
and those who gave
their lives in South-East Asia
1960-1975

The statue is 8' 5" tall (measured from head to toe) on top of a two-foot slate slab. Baut put the bronze figure in combat fatigues pants and boots holding a broken K-bar knife. He writes that the warrior stands in front of symbols of Vietnam what are punctured by pungee sticks. Baut further explains:

There is one spear for each 3 years of our involvement in this war. These symbolize the enslavement of Vietnam in the Bamboo Curtain of Communism, the misery of this country at its loss of liberty, our sons and brothers whose blood was spilled on her soil, the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, the imprisoned and those who have never returned. The spaces between the pungee sticks symbolize the IV Corps of Action in Vietnam.



The slate base is set at 17 degrees to the ground, the parallel of the latitude of the partition between the North and South Vietnam on our entrance to the war. Upon the base of this monumental sculpture are the names of our native sons who gave their lives in the Action.

The information above is located near the memorial. More information is on the website located in the resources box.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Vietnam Veteran Memorial](#)