



Otto Gregory Vincent Hamilton

Served in Vietnam, 1969 - 1970

Otto Gregory Vincent Hamilton served in the U.S. Navy during 1969 to 1970 and was honorably discharged in 1970. He received numerous medals and ribbons for his service including the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Combat Action Ribbon for his service on the USS Hickman County LST 825 in the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam. After his service, Hamilton was employed for 3 years by Naval Communications at the Pentagon, 2 years as Printing Supervisor at Vitro Laboratories and 20 years as Printing Services/Mail Desk Supervisor for the Washington Post Newspaper.

In 1987, while still working at the Washington Post, Hamilton became a Council Member for the City of Takoma Park representing Ward 4. During his three terms as City Council Member, Hamilton received the 1989 Montgomery County Interagency Fair Housing Award and the 1992 Montgomery County Community Partnership's "Highest Achievement Award".

Hamilton was exposed to Agent Orange while serving in the Riverine Patrol Force in Vietnam. Despite his lifelong fight against the effects of Agent Orange, he was passionate about improving the lives of Veterans here and nationwide. Since his discharge, he dedicated himself to assisting those affected by military life. A lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), he also served as President of local VVA Chapter #641. He was a committed member of Rolling Thunder MD Chapter 1, and for many years was a part of the Wall Washing Crew who are volunteers who wash and maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from April to November each year. He participated in the arrival of "Honor Flights" greeting and escorting World War II Veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. He was instrumental in advocating with then County Executive Ike Leggett to establish in 2008 the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs. In honor of his many services to the County, Leggett proclaimed January 20, 2012 as "Gregory V. Hamilton Day". He was also honored that month by now Senator Chris Van Hollen by putting his deeds and accomplishments in the Congressional Record.

In 2002, Hamilton, who identified himself as Black and Cherokee, became the Founder and Council President of the American Indian Heritage and Education Association, Inc., which served indigenous people. In November 2008, Hamilton became certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Veterans Service Officer to assist and represent Veterans in processing claims for benefits and compensation.

Hamilton died on March 10, 2012 leaving behind his beloved wife Louise and his children.