



Stephen M. Campanella

Served in Vietnam, *January 1969 to February 1970*

Stephen M. Campanella was drafted into the U.S. Army on July 17th, 1968, on his 21st birthday. After infantry training, he was assigned to Company C 4/3, 11th Light Infantry Brigade stationed out of Duc Pho, Vietnam in early January 1969. In May 1969, Campanella was wounded. On July 17th, 1969, he was reassigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, American Division Headquarters in Chu Lai as the Protocol Driver for the Chief of Staff. He was then assigned as the personal driver for Brigadier General Edwin L. "Spec" Powell and then as the Personal Enlisted Aide to General Powell. Campanella was released from the U.S. Army early and returned to civilian life on February 17th, 1970.

Campanella received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam. He was also awarded an Army Commendation Medal by General Powell.

Upon Campanella's return, he attended Montgomery College in Rockville as a music major and worked as a GI Bill funded Work-Study student in the college's music recording lab. He also worked part-time at Colonial Dodge Dart in Rockville while attending school. On July 17, 1972, on his 24th birthday, Campanella was hired full-time by the Montgomery College Music and Drama Departments as a recording/lighting/theatre set construction technician. He earned his A.A. degree in Music in 1976. He worked at Montgomery College for 36 years and retired in 2008.

Since retirement, Campanella has been involved in many volunteer areas in the area including Vice-President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 641, member of the Montgomery County Alumni Association Executive Board, and member of the Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. He also assists his traveling companion, and friend since kindergarten, Michael Walsh, a Vietnam Veteran, as he travels across the country visiting all 50 states photographing Vietnam memorials. These journeys are documented on Walsh's blog titled "A Means to Heal".

Campanella is the proud father of two sons and one daughter and grandfather of one granddaughter, Addie, who he adores and visits often. He currently resides in Rockville, Maryland.