



Army Commendation Medal



Vietnam Campaign Medal



25th Infantry Division



Vietnam Service Medal

**John Joseph Winders Jr.
Specialist Fifth Class U.S. Army
9 July 1969 – 12 February 1971**

John was born on 11 June 1947 in Queens, New York. The family moved to New Milford, New Jersey, in 1951. He attended grade school in New Milford and graduated from New Milford High School in 1965. He then entered Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1969. John was drafted into the Army as a Private on 9 July 1969 from New Jersey, and was assigned to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for basic training. He underwent advanced training as an Avionics Equipment Repairman at Fort Gordon, Georgia, until January 1970 when he was transferred to the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) for duty. He was assigned to the 725th Maintenance Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, based at Cu Chi near Saigon. The area around Cu Chi had been the site of a major North Vietnamese Army tunnel network which was part of a much larger network of tunnels throughout the country. The tunnels were used as hiding spots during combat and for communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches, and living quarters for guerrilla fighters. The tunnels were used in support of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War until they were destroyed by B-52 Bombers by early 1969. Subsequently, the 25th Infantry Division spent most of its time supporting the Vietnamization Program (getting the RVN Army prepared to take more responsibility for the war) except from May through June 1970, when they participated in Allied thrusts deep into enemy sanctuaries located in Cambodia. While at Cu Chi, John provided avionics equipment support for aircraft operating in and out of the area. He served at Cu Chi until he was released from active duty on 12 February 1971 at Oakland, California. John was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service in Vietnam as well as the Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. After John returned to the States he lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for two years where he worked for the Philadelphia Electric Company as a transmission and distribution design engineer. In 1973 he moved to Lower Macungie Township, settling there and going to work for the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania. John married **Susan Carol Henry** (born 9 December 1948) on 27 December 1969 in Allentown. They raised two children: **Heather** and **Elizabeth**. While living in Lower Macungie, John attended graduate school at Lehigh University, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1981. John's parents are **John Joseph Winders Sr.** (born 4 September 1915) and **Edna Eileen Neff** (born 4 November 1919).