LEE BLACKMON

Sergeant Lee Blackmon enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 19 and was deployed to Vietnam, where he served active duty for one year as platoon sergeant, squad and fire team leader. On September 8, 1970, as platoon sergeant with the 1st Marine Division, he was engaged in Operation Pickens Forest, one of many operations to defeat the Vietcong and the North Vietnam Army. Sergeant Blackmon's platoon received enemy fire and he was shot twice.

After being hospitalized and recovering from his wounds, and having reached the rank of Sergeant, he was discharged from the military because of the severity of his injuries. However, he did not give up, instead found other ways to continue serving his country, including through community advocacy.

Sergeant Blackmon is a Purple Heart recipient and a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He has received many other awards for his military service such as the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Meritorious Civil Action Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Wound Medal.

Sergeant Blackmon is the immediate past commander of the Rosedale-Laurelton American Legion Post 483. He joined the post in 2001 and has been a member in good standing for 18 years. Sergeant Blackmon was Post Chaplain from 2011 to 2015 before becoming Post Commander from 2015-2016. In his role as Commander, he started a food pantry program to help community members in need and regularly visits schools, speaking to students about the military and holidays honoring service members like Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. Sergeant Blackmon also goes to the St. Albans VA Hospital to engage vets there in recreational activities.

Sergeant Blackmon had the opportunity to televise his story about the Vietnam War in 2012 on Queens Public Television for a documentary called "So Proudly We Hail," and in 2016 on Access Public Television, in "A Vietnam Veteran's Story."

**LEE BLACKMON IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JAMES SANDERS JR.**