



**Michael Fish — 2/1/47**  
**Frank Matranga — 2/2/30**  
**Jon Edgerton — 2/3/47**  
**Dave Slicton — 2/2/41**  
**Roger Francis — 2/2/43**  
**Philip Balbuena — 2/3/48**  
**George Morse — 2/4/47**  
**Michael Morse — 2/4/47**  
**James Branson — 2/5/48**  
**Garry Bailey — 2/4/48**  
**Alfred Myers — 2/6/45**  
**Don Jacobsen — 2/7/45**  
**Kip Ramirez — 2/8/45**  
**Anthony Lowert — 2/8/46**  
**Louis Bickford — 2/8/48**  
**Argel Smith — 2/8/49**  
**Beverly Davis — 2/9/48**  
**Clayton Bailey — 2/12/48**  
**Scott Jackson — 2/12/51**  
**Ralph Jenson — 2/13/44**  
**Ron Kenerson — 2/13/48**  
**James Gattie — 2/14/49**  
**Jack Perry — 2/14/49**  
**Bill Hunt — 2/16/47**  
**Kim Sundelius — 2/17/46**  
**Rick Oliver — 2/18/50**  
**Jay Hoyes — 2/19/45**  
**Duncan MacVicar — 2/20/44**  
**John Highsmith — 2/23/49**  
**Al Mason — 2/25/40**  
**Al Sickle — 2/25/49**  
**Kats Nishikawa — 2/27/44**  
**Robert Gaxiola — 2/29/44**

**UPDATE YOUR PROFILE**

## Jon Cavaiani, MOH

The grand marshal in the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Parade in Sonora will be Jon R. Cavaiani, Medal of Honor recipient. He was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army and was in the Vietnam Training Advisory Group in Vietnam. He entered the military at Fresno, California and was born in 1943 in Royston, England. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for service in Vietnam on 4 and 5 June 1971.

### The Citation

SSGT Cavaiani distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 and 5 June 1971 while serving as a platoon leader to a security platoon providing security for an isolated radio relay site located within enemy-held territory. On the morning of 4 June 1971, the entire camp came under an intense barrage of enemy small arms, automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenade and mortar fire from a superior size enemy force. SSGT Cavaiani acted with complete disregard for his personal safety as he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire in order to move about the camp's perimeter directing the platoon's fire and rallying the platoon in a desperate fight for survival. SSGT Cavaiani also returned heavy suppressive fire upon the assaulting enemy force during this period with a variety of weapons. When the entire platoon was to be evacuated, SSGT Cavaiani unhesitatingly volunteered to remain on the ground and direct the helicopters into the landing zone. SSGT Cavaiani was able to direct the first three helicopters in evacuating a major portion of the platoon. Due to intense increase in enemy fire, SSGT

Cavaiani was forced to remain at the camp overnight where he calmly directed the remaining platoon members in strengthening their defenses. On the morning of 5 June, a heavy ground fog restricted visibility. The superior size enemy

force launched a major ground attack in an attempt to completely annihilate the remaining small force. The enemy force advanced in two ranks, first firing a heavy volume of small arms automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire while the second rank continuously threw a steady barrage of hand grenades at the beleaguered force. SSGT Cavaiani returned a heavy barrage of small arms and hand grenade fire on the assaulting enemy force but was unable to slow them down. He ordered the remaining platoon members to attempt to escape while he provided them with cover fire. With one last courageous exertion, SSGT Cavaiani recovered a machinegun, stood up, completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire directed at him, and began firing the



*Jon Cavaiani received the Medal of Honor in 1974 from President Gerald Ford.*

machinegun in a sweeping motion along the two ranks of advancing enemy soldiers. Through SSGT Cavaiani's valiant efforts with complete disregard for his safety, the majority of the remaining platoon members were able to escape. While inflicting severe losses on the advancing enemy force, SSGT Cavaiani was wounded numerous

*See Cavaiani, page 7*

## MOONSHINE CAFE

Good Fresh Food

Next to the Post Office  
5010 Main Street  
P.O. Box 533  
Coulterville, CA 95311

**(209) 878-0100**  
moonshinecafe@earthlink.net

**VVA-391 MEMBER**