

A tribute to
America's heroes

vizient.



Veterans Day is a sacred day in America for us to honor all who have served in the past, and continue to serve, in our nation's armed forces. Joining a military branch is one of the greatest commitments you can make. In this book, you'll see profiles of some of our Veterans here at Vizient, including myself.

From working with our Veterans DNA group, I know this service is something we all hold dear. It has shaped each and every one of us in profound ways and taught us the true meaning of placing the love of your country first.

If you are a Veteran and have not yet connected with our Veterans DNA, I encourage you to do so today. It gives you a great opportunity to connect with other Veterans and allies. Through this group, you can participate in volunteer activities, learning opportunities and advisory initiatives that ensure Vizient is a great company for Veterans. As a Veteran myself, I look forward to connecting with you at a future event.

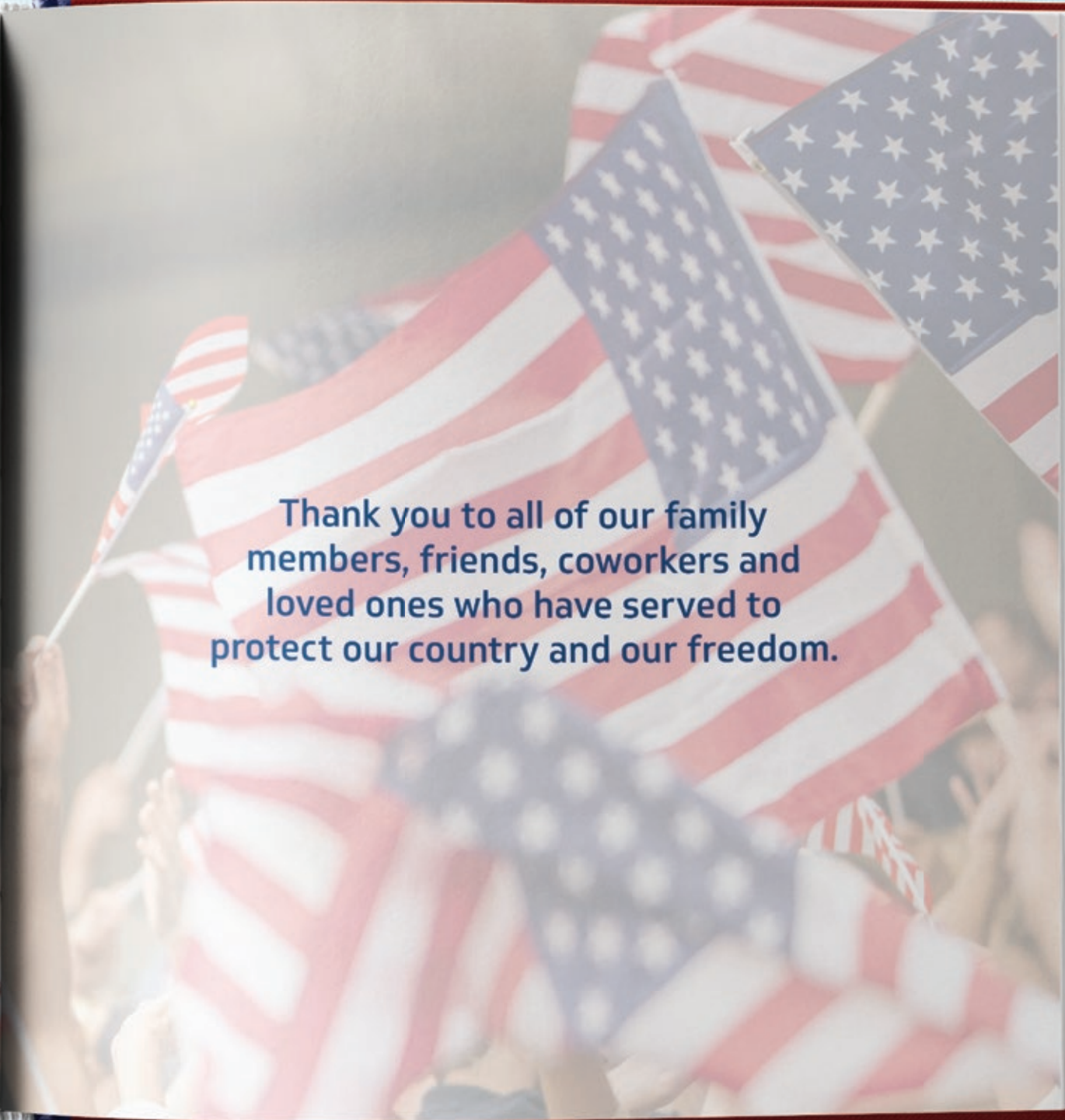
To all the Vizient Veterans, I'd like to say thank you for your service. I'd also like to thank you for choosing Vizient as the place that benefits from your experience, expertise and leadership skills. The valuable perspective you bring to Vizient is invaluable to us every day.

Happy Veterans Day!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rand A. Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Ballard
Vizient, Inc.
Chief Customer Officer
Veterans DNA Executive Sponsor



Thank you to all of our family members, friends, coworkers and loved ones who have served to protect our country and our freedom.



Vizient Veterans around the globe.

Vizient Veterans have traveled and lived around the world in service to our nation. Some of our Veterans shared stories about the perspective they gained from living in other countries and learning about local cultures, as well as the challenge of being so far from loved ones. This map shows some of the many places Vizient Veterans have served.



The left page of the notebook features a background of musical notation for the U.S. Navy Anthem. The notation is printed in a light blue color on a white background, with a blue gradient at the top of the page. The notes are arranged in four staves, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

U.S. Navy Anthem

Anchors aweigh, my boys, anchors aweigh
Farewell to foreign shores, we sail at break of day, of day
Through our last night ashore, drink to the foam
Until we meet again, here's wishing you a happy voyage home





Vizient Senior Software Engineer

Roger Beasley

U.S. Navy

Years of service	Six years active duty, two years reserve
Military rank	Second Class Petty Officer/E-5

My family has a long history of military service. My father and brother were both enlisted men like myself, while my sister and grandfather were both officers — all of us Navy Sailors. A cousin of mine joined the Army, but we don't hold that against him! To me, Veterans Day is about honoring the tradition and history of my family's service and remembering the brothers and sisters in arms that each generation has loved and lost. Fair winds and following seas, brethren.





Vizient Project Manager

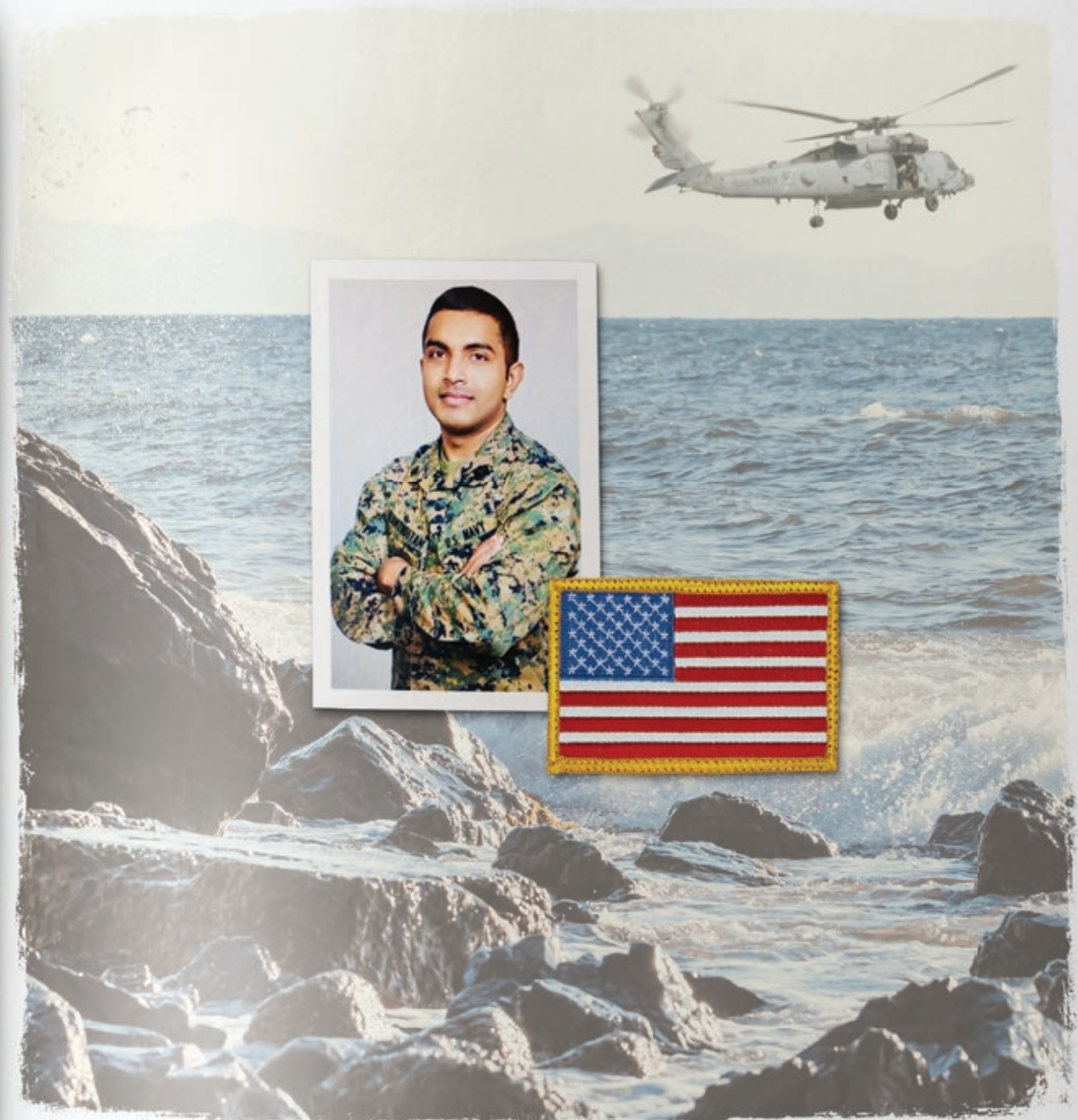
Abin Elamthottam

U.S. Navy

Years of service | Five years, six months active duty, one year reserve

Military rank | Hospital Corpsman Third Class/E-4

I had the opportunity to help the people of Haiti in 2010 after a major earthquake, which took the lives of more than 150,000 people. Providing humanitarian service to people in dire need and seeing even a small action change their lives moved me and gave me a different view of and appreciation for my current well-being and life. My presence in Haiti at that time gave me a great realization of how much we all depend on each other and how much we need each other.





U.S. NAVY

Vizient Senior Consulting Director, Advisory Solutions

Robert Gorham

U.S. Navy

Years of service | Ten years active duty, seventeen years reserve

Military rank | Senior Chief/E-8

Veterans Day to me is a celebration to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

I have many memorable moments during my 27-year career serving in the U.S. Navy. The training I received when I made chief petty officer (CPO) is still with me. The chief select initiation I received at Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida, was the most challenging few months in my Navy career. I learned so much Navy history, as well as how to effectively interact with senior leaders.

I had the honor of serving as the command senior chief for the commander, Reserve Intelligence Area 13, the second largest intelligence region in the United States. I was responsible for ensuring each Sailor was trained and ready to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and to support their families. Serving in the Honor Guard during military funerals was an emotional duty but I continue to serve in this capacity for fallen Sailors.



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I had the privilege and honor of having served as the command chief for United States Special Operations Command, United States Southern Command, the Defense Intelligence Agency and United States Central Command in my Navy career. I met so many great Sailors and officers who made an impact on me personally and the experiences have made me the person I am today!





Vizient Sourcing Director, Pharmacy

Tina Javeri

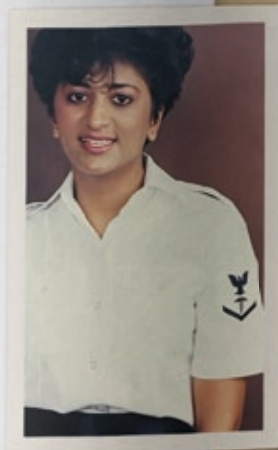
U.S. Navy

Years of service | Four years active duty, four years reserve

Military rank | Hospital Corpsman Second Class/E-5

I did not realize it at the time, but being in the Navy was honestly the hardest job I ever had — but also the best job I ever had. I have never experienced such camaraderie to this day.

It was an honor to serve, and I will never forget the experience that has served me so well in my subsequent career.





Vizient Manager, Supplier Monitoring

Eddie Laws

U.S. Navy

Years of service | Eight years

Military rank | Hospital Corpsman Second Class/E-5

One of my most memorable moments occurred the day before my boot camp graduation, when they gave us a chance to see our families after eight weeks of intense training. I had spoken with my dad a few days before. He said that he was very proud of me but unfortunately, he and my mom would not be able to attend. I understood but was a bit sad. As I hung out with my new shipmates, families and our company commander, I suddenly heard over the loudspeaker, "Fireman Laws, please report to the quarter deck." I thought I was in trouble, so I swiftly made my way to the requested location. As I rounded the corner, I saw my parents. It was like a movie. I ran to them and gave them the biggest hugs. My dad said, "Son, there was no way I was going to miss this, I would have walked to Florida from Missouri if I had to. I am so proud of you!" There were lots of tears and they both ended up sleeping in their van on the beach that night, but they made it to see me become a man in a traditional "Pass and Review" graduation service. This was the beginning of my eight amazing years of military service that took me around the world.





Vizient Associate Principal

Mark McCord

U.S. Navy

Years of service | Five years active duty, eight years reserve

Military rank | O-4/Lieutenant Commander

On active duty, I was a nuclear engineer at Naval Reactors Headquarters in Washington, DC. I provided technical and program management support to help ensure nuclear reactors were operated safely on submarines and aircraft carriers. In the Reserve, I'm an engineering duty officer that provides non-nuclear technical and program management support to Naval Warfare Centers.

“ I’ve had family members serve in almost every conflict since America was founded. ”





Vizient Product Manager

Ivan Portorreal

U.S. Navy

Years of service	Five years active duty, two years reserve
Military rank	Hospital Corpsman Second Class/E-5

Serving in the U.S. Navy provided me with an experience and appreciation unlike any other. I felt privileged when I was able to deploy aboard the USNS Spearhead as a part of our surgical team, which performed surgical procedures and delivered medical care across South America. We visited countries like Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil and Belize, where our team assisted understaffed local hospitals in performing lifesaving surgery and administering various medical services throughout our seven-month deployment. The bonds I made serving alongside my fellow Sailors and the multiple unique experiences afforded to me are something I will cherish for a lifetime.





Vizient Senior Portfolio Executive

James Tran

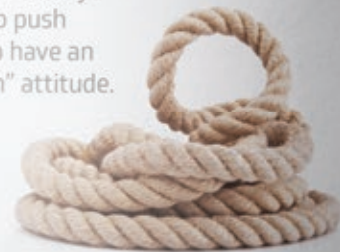
U.S. Navy

Years of service | Eight years

Military rank | Hospital Corpsman Second Class/E-5



I was 18 years old and had just graduated high school. I was not doing anything positive in my life at the time, so I decided to enlist in the Army, but backed out. I wasn't ready to go and tried college for a couple of years. Unfortunately, that didn't go well either. I was pretty much at rock bottom and needed to make a change in my life. That's when I made a commitment and enlisted in the Navy. The Navy made me the person I am today. The Navy gave me courage to push through difficult times and to have an "always complete the mission" attitude.





Vizient Senior Infrastructure Engineer II – Security

Matt Ward

U.S. Navy

Years of service | Five years active duty

Military rank | Hospital Corpsman Second Class/E-5

The military is where I found myself. It gave me structure, direction and purpose at a very young age. As a result, you are forced to grow up very quickly and think on your feet. The majority of the skills I use in my current position were all developed in the Navy. However, the Marines may argue I learned some of those skills while serving as a Corpsman with many of their units. Therefore, the Navy will have to share that credit, where credit is due respectfully.





U.S. Army Anthem

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.





Vizient Chief Customer Officer

Rand Ballard

U.S. Army

Years of service | Nine years active duty, one year reserve

Military rank | O-3/Captain

While I was in the Army (a West Point cadet), I was on temporary duty at Fort Hood, Texas, and I was given the privilege of rooming with Major General Patton (General Patton's son) when he took over the 2nd Armored Division. Trust me, this was not how I wanted to spend my summer. One of the things he asked me to do as a favor to him, was to supervise his 18-year-old daughter who was visiting for a week. With my strong belief in honor, duty and country, the mission was accomplished, all morals remained intact and I got my first gray hair!





Vizient Senior Director, Client Management

Bridget Bonning

U.S. Army

Years of service	Four years active duty, more than 14 years active reserve
Military rank	Staff Sergeant/E-6

Being a Veteran is something I am very proud of. I loved my time in the service. The overall experience I gained and life lessons I learned cannot be quantified. Would I do it all over again? Absolutely! Being in signal warfare during what was still the Cold War could be very strange but very fun. It was very hard to be in my early 20s and not be allowed to travel freely. I had to have an escort to leave Germany and travel. I was only able to travel one time and visit Paris in the two and a half years I lived in Germany. However, the fun part centers on a great memory. I played on a softball team within the military intelligence units in my area of Germany. Our team made it all the way to the championships in Berlin in 1984. It was amazing to see the Berlin Wall before it came down as well as see firsthand how valuable it is to be free.

I finished out my military career in supply chain/logistics, which brought me to medical supply and then working at hospitals, which eventually brought me to Vizient. Go Army!!





Vizient Manager, Analytics

Lionel Carter

U.S. Army, U.S. National Guard

Years of service | Four years active duty Army, six years National Guard

Military rank | Sergeant/E-5

One of my fondest memories is as an instructor at the NGB Region VI NCO Academy in Ball, Louisiana. We had a group of students from our Primary Leadership and Development Course out in the field, going over tactical strategy and land navigation.

One classmate was afraid of bugs. A fellow classmate thought it would be funny to take a twig and make it look like a bug called a walking stick. The classmate carefully placed the twig on the other student's right shoulder, and made it seem as if it were moving. Thinking it was a real bug, the classmate jumped up and started running down the grassy hill, stumbling and rolling to the bottom of the hill, frantically screaming. We proceeded back up the hill where the offending classmate was later placed on kitchen patrol and latrine duty, with an extra session of physical training. I couldn't help but laugh later at the entire situation.



Vizient Senior Data Analyst

Russell Doan

U.S. Army

Years of service

Three years active duty, seven years reserve

Military rank

Sergeant/E-5

“The U.S. flag flew over the United States Capitol for one day in honor of my military service.”

U.S. ARMY



Vizient Manager, Item Master

Emilee Kight

U.S. Army

Years of service	Three years active duty
Military rank	Specialist/E-4

I was a 3rd Cavalry Regiment Soldier stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado. My military occupational specialty was a 45 Bravo, small arm repairer. I worked on and fixed everything from a 9mm pistol to feeder mechanisms in a howitzer tank. I was able to train alongside the British, French and Greek militaries. I also did some training in Egypt after 9/11.





U.S. ARMY

Vizient Principal, PPI Advisory

Lucretia Lyttle

U.S. Army

Years of service

Eight years active duty

Military rank

Specialist/E-4



Initially, I joined the U.S. Army Reserve for the educational benefits but ended up developing a love for healthcare. It was truly my honor to wear the uniform and serve my country. The experiences help make me who I am today.



U.S. ARMY

U.S. ARMY

Vizient Director, Supplier Audit

Nick Rae

U.S. Army

Years of service | Six years active duty, two years reserve

Military rank | O-3/Captain



I distinctly recall the camaraderie that grows amongst the folks on the deployment; we all appreciated that our family and friends were living far away and could not appreciate the unique circumstances and environment we lived in.

“To all my fellow Veterans, thank you for your service and time.”





Vizient AVP, Contract Data Management

Glen Sample

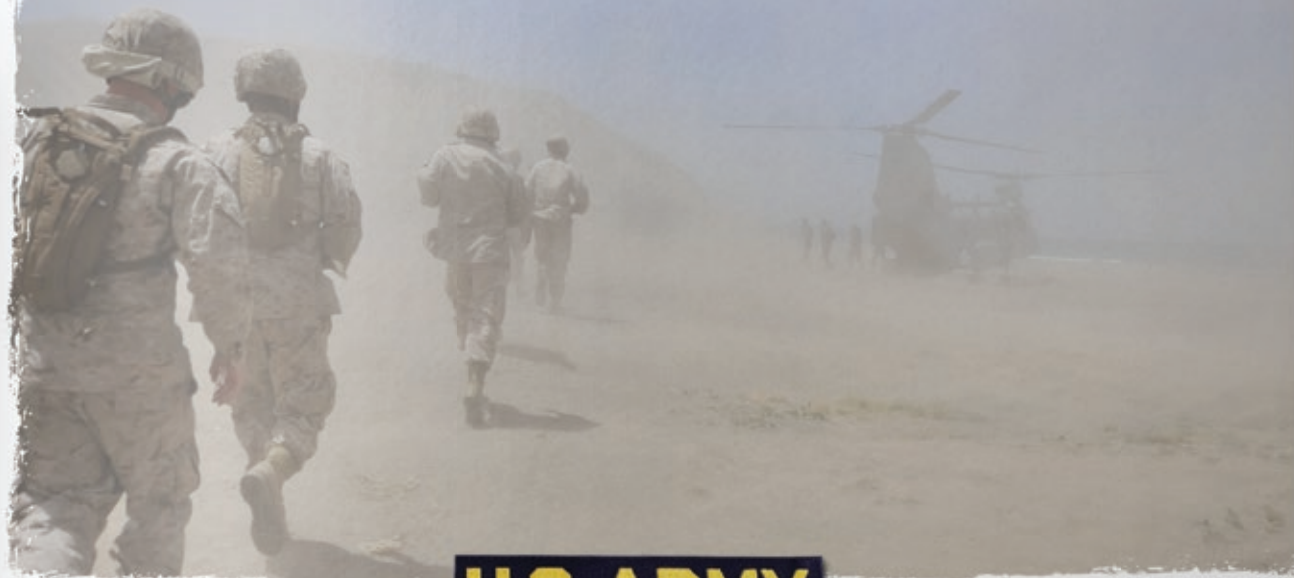
U.S. Army

Years of service | Six years active duty, two years reserve

Military rank | Sergeant/E-5

My most memorable event occurred while serving at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert. The purpose of the training was to simulate war conditions. One night we received a report of a possible morning attack, which meant we had to "dig in."

What this entailed was digging a foxhole up to the armpits of the tallest person in the squad, which included three of us, while also using the dirt to fill sandbags for perimeter coverage. We started digging the hole at around 10 p.m. and didn't finish until around 3 a.m. Upon completion, we all slept in the foxhole feeling extremely proud about what we had accomplished in preparation for the simulated battle.



U.S. ARMY

Just two hours after falling asleep, we were awakened by the officers who were the referees that officiated the simulated battle. They informed us that our foxhole was deep enough, but the sandbags that were used to provide cover would not have protected us. They disqualified us from taking part in the simulated battle and we were told to fill the hole back up.

We were highly disappointed for several reasons, mainly because we worked all night and wouldn't get to participate in the simulation. But looking back on that event, it taught me patience, teamwork and a very high degree of attention to detail.





Vizient Director Operations & Quality Services

Eric Shiffer

U.S. Army

Years of service | Eight years active duty

Military rank | Sergeant/E-5



The deployment I most relish was a UN Peacekeeping mission in Macedonia. Multi-National cooperation, a beautiful country and incredible people. The one memory of this deployment that to this day I can see as if I were still there; moving through small villages, mud huts with grass roofs and the children running up to us knowing we would have a treat for them.





U.S. ARMY

Vizient Senior Director Eastern Alliances, Intalere

Don Smalley-Rader

U.S. Army

Years of service | Four years active duty, two years reserve

Military rank | Specialist/E-4

To me, Veterans Day is about remembering the sacrifices that Veterans have made throughout the years to ensure that we all have the right to live freely and enjoy the freedoms that their service awarded us. I am proud to have served my country and to have continued my family's tradition of serving in the military. My service helped to make me into the person I am today by teaching me discipline, respect for all and a willingness to serve others.





Vizient Enterprise Client Manager

Randy Stephenson

U.S. Army, U.S. National Guard

Years of service | 10 years

Military rank | Specialist/E-4

First, I'd like to thank each Veteran for having served in some capacity in the military for the greatest nation in the history of the world. From the heart, when I see a Veteran, I see a person who has patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.





Vizient Inventory Manager

Curtis Tanksley

U.S. Army

Years of service | Six years active duty, two years reserve

Military rank | Staff Sergeant/E-6

“ Like many, the people that I trained with in the beginning became my family over time. Following 9/11, the stress levels were intense. We still managed to keep our spirits high with lots of music and after-duty get-togethers. Many of us still chat on Facebook.”





Vizient Senior Director of Consulting

Matt Turmelle

U.S. Army, U.S. National Guard

Years of service | Six years active duty, two years reserve

Military rank | O-3/Captain



My grandfather and uncle served in the Army, and I have always had a passion for helping others. I always admired my grandfather and uncle, and maybe I should have listened more to my grandfather who said, "Don't volunteer for anything." Sorry Grampa, I couldn't help it...

I am extremely thankful to all who have served and those who are still serving today. Words cannot express the gratitude my family and I have for the sacrifices they and their families have given.





Vizient Principal, Operations and Quality

Colleen Vetere

U.S. Army Reserve

Years of service | 10 years

Military rank | O-2/First Lieutenant

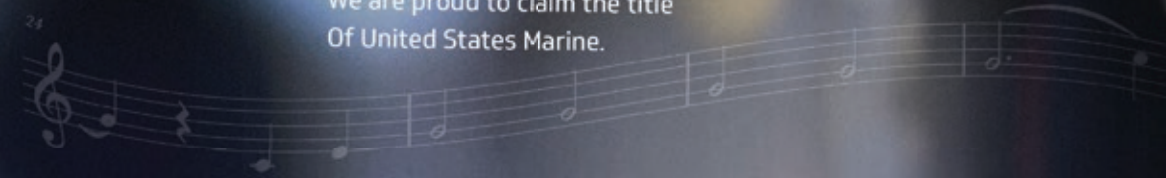
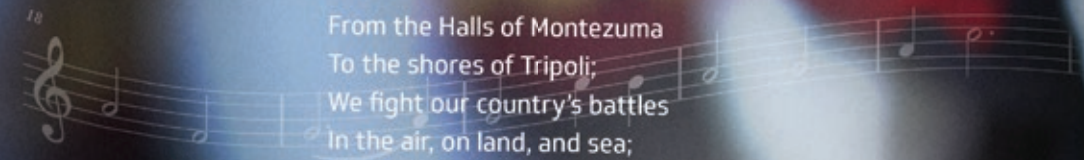


As a newly commissioned second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve – Army Nurse Corps, my first assignment with the 114th Evacuation Hospital out of Fort Sam Houston took me to Fort Hood, Texas, in the summer of 1984. I had no idea what to expect, but I certainly didn't think that our first night would entail a direct hit by straight-line winds and flash flooding! We were rudely awakened by driving rain that had us forming human chains and helping each other up a hill so we could shelter in the back of our deuce-and-a-half trucks until daylight. It was an incredibly inauspicious start to what ultimately was a fabulous and fulfilling 10-year stint of military service.



U.S. Marines Anthem

From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.





U.S. MARINES

Vizient Executive Assistant

Stephanie Escalera

U.S. Marines

Years of service | Four years

Military rank | Corporal/E-4

When 9/11 happened, I knew my calling was to join the military. I joined the Marine Corps because I wanted a challenge. They break you down and build you back up during boot camp.

During my four years of service, I volunteered for two tours. The reason I chose to deploy was to show support for my brothers and sisters in arms, all of whom sacrificed so much. I was stationed at Al Taqaddum, Iraq, for both tours. During my second tour I volunteered for convoys. I was curious to see what was happening outside the wire. It was an eye-opening experience to see what was going on with the nationals.

I enjoyed my time in the Marine Corps and met so many people. My family grew and to this day I stay in contact with many of them.





U.S. MARINES

Vizient Manager, Analysts

Michelle Henderson

U.S. Marines

Years of service | Four years active duty

Military rank | Sergeant/E-5

“ One of my best memories is receiving a surprise field promotion from a brigadier general surrounded by fighter pilots. It’s always fun times listening to the pilots’ stories. ”

U.S. Air Force Anthem

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!





U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Accreditation Advisor

Joe Bellino

U.S. Air Force

Years of service	Three years, one month
Military rank	Senior Airman/E-4

I did not realize until a few years after I separated from active duty how my Air Force experiences affected both my personal and professional development. I will never forget the work I accomplished and service to my country. The average person cannot comprehend why or how we do what we do. One must experience military service to fully comprehend the call to service and devotion to duty. I have three sons, all of whom are serving in the Army and Air Force. I had the opportunity to attend my son's graduation from the Air Force Security Forces Academy and pin his badge, a custom of law enforcement that allows former and current officers to pin their family members' badges.





U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Senior Analyst



Andie Bernhardt

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Four years active duty

Military rank | O-3/Captain



I earned my commission into the U.S. Air Force through Baylor's Reserve Officers Training Corps program in 2016. I was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada serving as a medical/surgical nurse. I was lucky to work with an amazing group of nurses and medics.

Our patients were truly special and opened my eyes to the unique health issues that active duty members, Veterans and their families face. In my first year as a Veteran, I reflect fondly on the wonderful people I got to meet, and the opportunities the military gave me. This Veterans Day, I can appreciate firsthand all the amazing things that Veterans contribute to our society, while understanding that there is still progress to be made toward providing adequate support for Veterans, especially in terms of mental health. To my fellow Veterans, thank you for your service!



REMOVE BEFORE FLIGHT



U.S. AIR FORCE



Vizient Staff Associate, Contract Services

Brant Berry

U.S. Air Force, U.S. Air National Guard

Years of service | 16 years

Military rank | Master Sergeant/E-7

“ I truly enjoyed my time in the Air National Guard. While not every moment was fun, I was always with people I knew I could trust. ”





U.S. AIR FORCE



Vizient Procurement Specialist

Robert Dias

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Five years active duty

Military rank | Sergeant/E-5

“ I’m proud to have served. I learned much, traveled abroad and was in Operation Desert Storm. A Saudi man in Bahrain gave me \$50 as a thank-you for coming over to save the day.”





U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Analyst

Daniel Ewing

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Four years active duty

Military rank | Senior Airman/E-4

Veterans Day is a day where I feel a special bond with my mother and grandfathers, all of whom also served in the military. It provides an opportunity to reflect on how we as Veterans stepped out of our comfort zones to better ourselves and our country. Looking back on my service, it was the greatest decision I ever made, and I wouldn't be where I am today if I didn't make that jump.

U.S. AIR FORCE



U.S.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Senior Vice President, Excelerate

Beth Graefe

U.S. Air Force Reserve, U.S. Air National Guard

Years of service | Six years active duty

Military rank | O-3/Captain

Veterans Day reminds me of the sacrifices made by current and past service members. Being in the military means devoting your life — 24/7, 365 days a year — to protecting others. I am honored to have served and proud of my family and friends who also continue to care for others above themselves.





U.S. AIR FORCE



Vizient Director, Data Operations

Leslie Monschke

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Seven years active duty

Military rank | Staff Sergeant/E-5

I come from a military family. Both sets of grandparents, my dad and most of my uncles have all served in one branch or another. So, it was no surprise when both my brother and I joined the Air Force. We ended up at the same base in Colorado Springs. He was a crew chief on C-130s and I was a flight medic. Shortly after I finished tech school, I was activated for Operation Desert Storm. My brother was the crew chief for my flight. He assisted my unit with getting on the plane, then marshaled it away from the gate. I could see him out of the window as my plane was leaving. My brother was activated a couple of weeks after me, although we went to different locations. Having arrived home first I was able to greet him on the tarmac at his homecoming.



U.S. AIR FORCE



Vizient Senior Consulting Director

Olander Pilson

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Six years, 10 months active duty

Military rank | Senior Airman/E-4

My Air Force journey started on Nov. 23, 1987. On that evening, I was second guessing my decision to join the military based on a series of events. My flight to basic training was my first time being on a plane, and we got caught in a violent storm. We then had to deal with the military training instructors and their antics trying to play mind games with new recruits, who were starving and nervous. After rebelling against the antics, I was selected as a flight lead and given the nickname of "professor." After a week of training, I realized I made the right decision to join the military and serve our country. My military journey and experience were positive, allowing me to develop lifetime friendships, travel the world and find my way to become more independent. Also, my tenure exposed me to the reality of combat situations while being part of Desert Storm, as a surgical technician. Today, I have no regrets about my decision to join the ranks of those who served. It is an experience that I will treasure for a lifetime and I would do it all over again.





U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. ARMY

Vizient Implementation Director, Pharmacy

Dennis Sinclair

U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army

Years of service | 16 years U.S. Army Reserve

Military rank | O-3/Captain

One of my most memorable moments was having the honor of assembling and sending care packages to the prisoners of war (POWs) during the Vietnam War. Each month I would work with the families of the POWs to put the care packages together, which included medication, candy and letters from home. When the POWs came home, I had the honor of meeting one of them in person. Sadly, he reported that he never received any of the care packages. It was an honor to serve, and I received so much more than I ever gave. I'm thankful for the opportunities.





U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Senior Analyst

Joanne Skillings

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Five years active duty, six years reserve

Military rank | Staff Sergeant/E-5

I first want to give a special thank-you to all military spouses and most especially, my mom. The spouses are the unrecognized heroes in keeping the military machine going.

My most incredible assignment was in Okinawa, Japan. I was attached to the Det 1 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing supporting the SR-71 aircraft from 1979-1983.





U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Sourcing Executive

Sarah Sumlin

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | 10 years active duty

Military rank | Technical Sergeant/E-6

After graduating from high school in 2004, I wanted to join the Air Force, but I was only 17 and not old enough to sign my enlistment paperwork. My parents said there was no way they would allow me to “go to war” and therefore I had to wait until I turned 18. This was during the war in Iraq and although the idea of a war scared me, I still wanted to join.

Two years later, I had not enlisted. Instead, I lived in San Diego working and attending school. Then the worst happened: I learned that my childhood friend was killed in action in Iraq. At that moment, I knew I wanted to sign up to take his place. And that’s what Veterans Day means to me: being willing to fight and die for your country and even for people you have never met, if necessary.

Today, I still maintain it is one of the best decisions of my life and I have loved every minute of my active duty time and reserve time. It hasn’t always been easy — such as getting orders to leave my newborn — but it has always been worth it.





U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Software Quality Engineer

Dylan Thomas

U.S. Air Force

Years of service | Four years active duty, three years reserve

Military rank | Staff Sergeant/E-5

“ I chose the Air Force because all the friends I had in the military told me to join either the Air Force or Navy. One thing I had to adapt to was having a long-distance relationship before I got married. I planned a wedding while I was 10 hours away. And I also had my first kid a month before my first deployment, so when I got back it was like starting all over again. ”



U.S. AIR FORCE

Vizient Director, Supply Chain Operations

Richard Woung

U.S. Air Force

Years of service	Seven years active duty, two years reserve
Military rank	Staff Sergeant/E-5

I left New York City for Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) to start my Air Force career on July 1, 1981, and never looked back. At 19 years old, I entered the Air Force with no clue as to what I wanted to do or the career path I wanted to take. There is a saying, "The needs of the Air Force come first," so they selected for me: contract/procurement specialist. Guess they knew what they were doing. From my first permanent assignment at Andrews AFB to my last at McConnell AFB, the knowledge and experience gained remains immeasurable. I even found time to earn my degree and three commendation medals for Meritorious Service. I left the Air Force 33 years ago and the bond I feel towards fellow Veterans and current active duty members is as strong as ever.

The respect shown to my brothers and sisters in arms now, is a far cry from the treatment those returning from Vietnam received. I will eternally be grateful for those who served before me, with me and after me. Forty years later, I would make the same decision all over again. My Air Force career set me on a path to success for which I can never thank them enough for.

Every November as Veteran's Day approaches, we reflect on the contributions Veterans have made in their brave and selfless service to defend our nation and protect our freedoms. Personally, I think about how the Veterans in my own life – and their experiences serving our country – have influenced me.

Since we founded the Veterans DNA in 2017, we have been very intentional about making Vizient a place that welcomes our Veterans and celebrates the unique skills and life experiences they bring to our company.

Our Veteran coworkers exemplify our values day in and day out – inspiring each of us to be more bold, accountable, inclusive and purposeful in our approach. They strengthen our organization with their strategic background and purpose-driven insights – helping us provide exceptional offerings so our members can, in turn, improve the health of communities nationwide. Their commitment to excellence is second to none and we acknowledge the dedication and innovation they bring to Vizient. As you read the profiles and learn about the amazing Veterans who work alongside us, I encourage you to reach out and say thank you to a Veteran team member, loved one or friend.

Happy Veterans Day to our Veteran colleagues and all the brave heroes who have served and continue to protect our American freedoms.



Byron Jobe
Vizient, Inc.
President and CEO





Profiles in Courage

Family members of Vizient employees

This year for Veterans Day, we invited Vizient employees to share how their loved ones who served, inspired them and helped mold them into the amazing Vizient employees they are today.



Vizient employee family member | **Cindy Barron-Taylor, honoring brother**

Preston Comeaux

U.S. Army

Years of service | 22 years active duty

Military rank | O-5/Lieutenant Colonel



I'd like to honor my brother Lieutenant Colonel Preston Noe Comeaux III who served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 22 years and who was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Wayne Memorial Hospital. On August 8, 1990 Preston was immersed in a \$42 million dollar Hospital construction and renovation project when his life changed completely. That day President George Bush activated reservists for Operation Desert Shield and two weeks later, Preston reported for active duty at Fort Bragg's Womack Army Hospital. He spent most of the next year working between Fort Bragg and Goldsboro to serve dual roles working clinically in the Army Hospital as a Registered Nurse and yet still functioning in his EVP/COO roles at Wayne Memorial.





Vizient employee family member | Doris Harris, honoring father

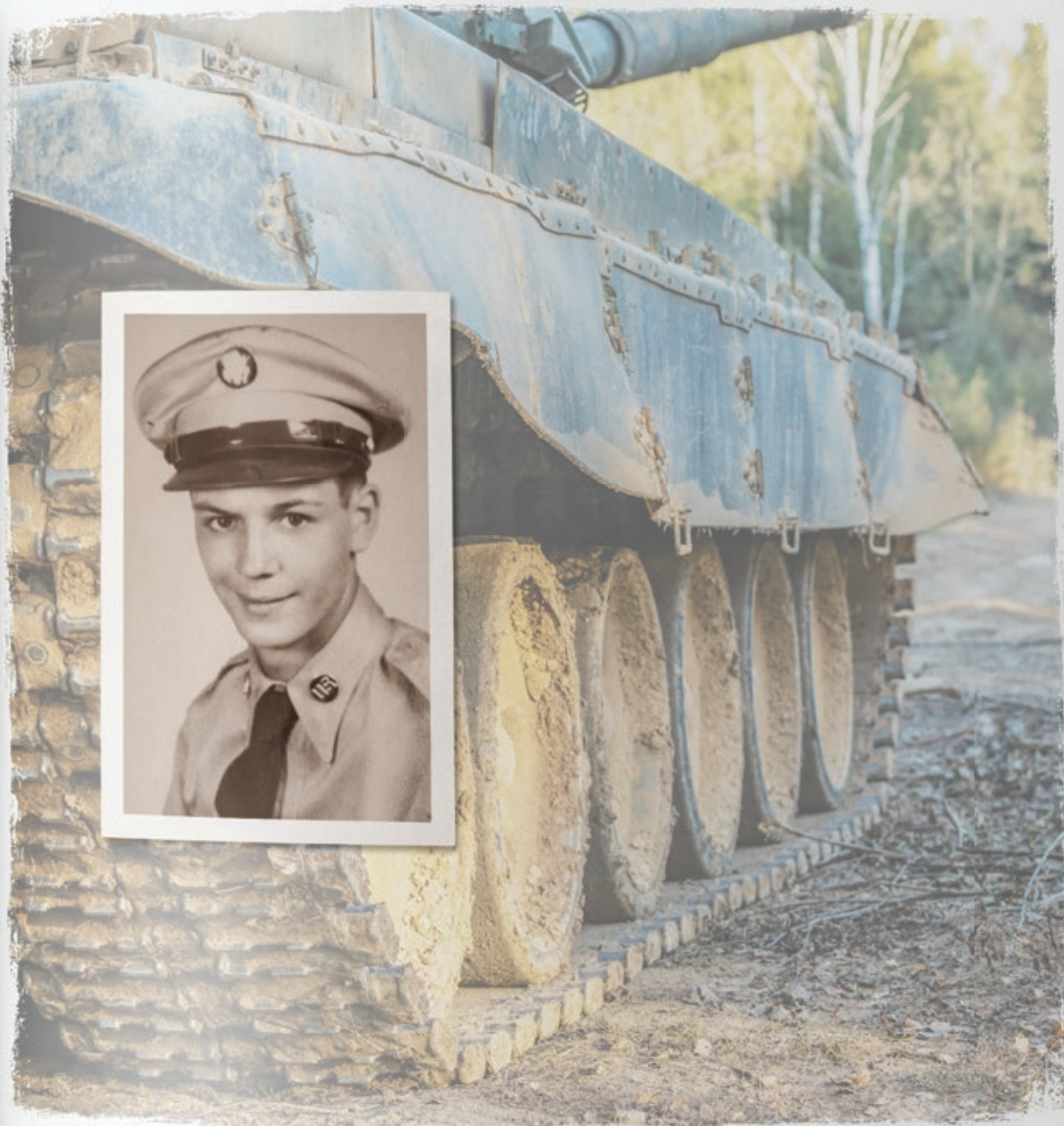
A.C. Harris

U.S. Army

Years of service | 20 years active duty

Military rank | Sergeant First Class/E-7

I would like to honor my father, Albert Carl Harris. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years after joining as a teenager in the late 1940s. He served in Vietnam and did tours in Japan, France, and Korea. After his retirement, he taught new recruits for several years. He had a great love of the USA and was proud to serve his country. I have great respect for all Veterans as I saw first-hand the dedication needed and sacrifices made by members of all branches of our great military.





Vizient employee family member | Elizabeth Shoaf, honoring father

Robert Luther

U.S. Navy

Years of service	Four years
Military rank	Petty Officer Second Class/E-5

After college, my dad, Robert Colin Luther, Sr. was unable to find employment and looked to the military for an opportunity. My grandfather, Charles Christopher Luther, II retired from the U.S. Army in 1977 and my dad's brother, my uncle, Charles C. Luther, III served in the Army as a sergeant. My dad enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1982; reporting to boot camp two days after my parents eloped to be married. My dad was in the Navy when I was born; therefore, I was born a Navy brat in Jacksonville, Florida. He was honorably discharged at an E5 ranking when, as a baby, I presented with an unknown childhood illness.

My dad is my "why" for being a support of the Veterans@Vizient DNA. The values which my dad engrained in me as a child were the same values that the Navy engrained in him as a young Sailor. Hard work was not optional. Neither was integrity or honor. Most importantly, my dad raised me with the understanding that I was part of something bigger than myself – nowhere is the value of selfless service seen, or practiced, more than in the lives of the service members and families in our military. I did not follow in my dad's military footsteps, regardless, these beliefs were imperative to my development as both a good citizen and a good person. Veterans have a selfless dedication and sacrifice for our country that is matched only by the depth of their passion for freedom and justice. I give my dad love and gratitude for serving our country and our family and will continue to thank him and all Veterans for their service.



Thank you, Veterans.
We honor all who have served.



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