

John "Buzz" Hogan enlisted in the United State Marine Corps on May 7th, 1968 and was deployed in support of US Military Operations in the Republic of Vietnam where he served as a 0341 Mortarman. John was wounded in action on two separate occasions and awarded the Purple Heart in 1968 and again in 1969.

In addition to his two Purple Hearts, John has also received the National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, CT Wartime Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 1*, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/device, Good Conduct Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, a Letter of Commendation and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Six years ago, following a diagnosis of Cancer due to exposure to Agent Orange while in the combat theater in Vietnam, John was given only six months to live. Well, six years later and John still fights his cancer while simultaneously starting the John "Buzz" Hogan Scholarship Fund that awarded its first two scholarship grants in June 2014 to two Bethel High School graduating seniors that are grandchildren of combat veterans.

John's service and sacrifice and continued dedication and generosity to our next generation through his scholarship fund (despite his terminal cancer diagnosis) reflect great credit upon himself and is in keeping with the highest standards of the Department of Defense and the United States Marine Corps. He is truly a warrior now, as he was in Vietnam.

Daniel R. Gaita
Co-Founder and Volunteer
Operation Vet-Fit