

The Con Thien Memorial Post 1945 grew out of incarcerated Veterans who formed a group called "The Veterans Self Help Program" / in 1987, The Post gained its name from The Battle in the Vietnam War known as "The Battle for the Hills of Angels" in the Northern province of Quang Tri province in South Vietnam. A total of 851 American Servicemen, the majority being U.S. Marines, made the ultimate sacrifice for what they believed in.

A Charter member, Mr. Al Coon who fought in the Battle of the Hills of Angels who fought in this battle passed away shortly before his dream came true from Dioxin Poisoning he acquired in Vietnam some 20 years earlier.

The Con Thien Memorial Post name was given in fond memory of Mr. Al Coon. The deceased former Vice-Commander, and other members of the United States armed Forces who gave their fullest to God and Country.

The Post was granted a charter in 1990, against much resistance. However, under the auspices of our valued advisor, Lieutenant Robert E. Mahoney a former American Legion Commander who fought against many odds and obstacles, and present Staff Advisor, Sgt Al Jorge, we have managed to overcome many stigmas, while at the same time, making positive differences in the lives of the Incarcerated Veterans, so that other Post's and society in general will see and understand the plight of the Incarcerated veterans, we feel that carrying the title of "Veterans" Transcends Racial, Geographical, Economic, Political and Religious backgrounds.

The Con Thien Memorial Post has erected the only known memorial for Veterans who have died while being incarcerated here at the Arthur Kill Correctional Center. The Memorial Wall along with the Flagpole was built by members of this Post on October 28, 1996. It was dedicated by past New York State Vice Commander Mr. Royal Lykes. Our goal is to bring to the attention of our fellow Legionnaires and society as well, that we have fought under the banner of "Old Glory" and for that, the value of our free and independent Nation, and therefore, We Should Not Be Forgotten.

The Post is breathing life back into the very heart of the Incarcerated veterans. We will not surrender to those who perhaps wish to see us, as, Incarcerated veterans fail.

We are calling on you, our reinforcements, to further strengthen and bolster the bond between the Incarcerated Veterans on the “ Inside “ and society on the “ Outside “

Although the facility has been closed the Con Thien Memorial Post remains in our hearts.