

**Stephen C. Uchniat**  
***President of Liberty Bell Chapter 266***  
***Vietnam Veterans of America***

Stephen Uchniat was raised in the Fairhill/Kensington section of Philadelphia. He attended Jules E. Mastbaum High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1967 during his senior year. He graduated in June 1967, and left for basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, two weeks later.

After completing bootcamp, Uchniat was sent to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland for schooling. He then received his orders for Vietnam and was sent to Qui Nhon, then to the 526 Collection, Classification and Storage (CC&S) Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Battalion in the Phu Tai Valley.

After a yearlong tour in Vietnam, Uchniat was sent to Mannheim Germany, where he was stationed with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Support Brigade for 15 months.

Uchniat was discharged in June 1970 with the rank of Specialist Five. He was only 20 years old.

He married his wife, Julie, in June 1979. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Uchniat retired from Thomas Jefferson Hospital after 28 years of service.

He became active in the veterans' community with the start of the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He has served as President of the Liberty Bell Chapter 266 for more than 15 years.

In addition to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Uchniat is a member of American Legion Post 738, D.A.V. Naomi Chapter 15, VFW Post 2819, Catholic War Veterans At Large Vietnam Veterans of America Liberty Bell Chapter 266.