

Reverend James G. Munroe - U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam veteran

Jim Munroe grew up in North Andover and graduated from Andover Academy to attend Williams College. He left school after one year to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. After serving at a missile base in California for a year, he volunteered for Vietnam. In 1968 and 1969 he served with the First Marine Division, directing artillery fire direction a fire base outside of Da Nang. Part way into his tour he was seriously wounded when his base was overrun by the North Vietnamese Army in an attack that took the lives of a number of his fellow Marines. After a long period of hospitalization in Japan and the U.S., he was honorably discharged from the Marines. Jim returned to Williams College, graduated, and eventually entered divinity school and became an Episcopal priest. He currently serves as the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, Mass., where he leads his church's extensive and multi-faceted urban ministry programs. Jim has shared his stories in classrooms through the Veterans Education Project since the mid 1980s. A good part of his story deals with how combat trauma has affected him and how he has worked to heal the emotional wounds of war. He serves as a member of VEP's Board of Directors.