Leslie Mount for the City of Del City, Oklahoma

by

In Memory o

Our

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11th Edition, November 2020



If you have any information about the heroes on these pages, please contact

Terry Humphrey City of Del City 3701 S.E. 15th Street Del City, OK 73115 (405) 677-5741 ext 7332 thumphrey@cityofdelcity.org

### Dedication

To Mark Edwards for ensuring that our fallen heroes are never forgotten, are remembered for who they were, and are more than merely names etched in stone on Del City's War Memorial. This work would not have been possible without Mark's vision, wisdom, guidance, and encouragement.

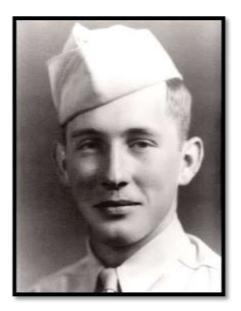
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### **Billy A. Krowse** December 14, 1925 – March 13, 1945

#### PFC – US Army World War II



**B** illy was the son of Roy A. Krowse and Georgia Hickman. He attended the Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore, Oklahoma, and had completed a year of college before enlisting in the Army on March 25, 1944, for a term of the duration of the war plus six months. Billy was proud to serve his country, and his goal was to attend Officer Candidate School.



Billy was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "... extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 311th Infantry Regiment, 78th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 13 March 1945, near Honnef, Germany."

During a mission to secure terrain known as "Cemetery Hill," Billy's platoon came under intense enemy fire that "... inflicted numerous casualties and pinned the unit down. In the initial attack, when the platoon leader and the noncommissioned officers were either killed or wounded, Private Krowse assumed command, ably reorganized the remnants of the unit, and a hostile machine gun position holding up further advance, he proceeded alone under fire and succeeded in personally eliminating the enemy position. While clearing the area around the gun position, he was killed by a hidden enemy rifleman, but his indomitable courage so inspired his comrades that they surged forward and secured the hill. The consummate determination, exemplary leadership, and heroic self-sacrifice clearly displayed by Private Krowse reflect the highest credit upon himself, the 78th Infantry Division, and the United States Army." [Department of the Army, General Orders No. 89, October 3, 1952.]

As a part of the U.S. postwar occupation of Germany, various U.S. Army units were housed at Camp Grohn. The 12 streets in the camp were named after heroes of the 311th Regiment, one of whom was PFC Billy A. Krowse.



Billy was 19 years old when he was killed in action near Honnef, Germany, and he was temporarily buried in Henri Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium. Billy's final resting place is at Oak Crest Abbey Mausoleum in Park Cemetery, Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri.









Billy A. Krowse











Billy Allen House



TETCL - HONON AVERA BRAVERY -DR ~ PRATERY - VALOR - BRAV SIGR ~ VAT ~HONOR -EnoH() Vier CF~HONO Franker (C) R and V/ SAC ACRIFICE LAVERY BRAVERY LOR - BRAVERY - SACREEN VALOR ~ BRAV IONOR ~ VALOR ~ BRAV - VAL TF ~HONOR FICE ~HONOR ~ SACRIFICE -- H SACRIFICE ~HO SACI RAVERY ~ SACRI ~ SACRIFIC ~HONOR ~ VA IOR ~ BRAVERY 1 ( )# IONOR ~ VALOR ~ BRAVERY ~ SACRIFICE ~ HONOR ONOR - VALOR - BRAVERY - SAC RI BRAVERY ~ SACR VALO ~ ECE-HON R ~ VALOR ~ BRAVERY ~ WFRY -JOR ~ VALOR ~ BRA Berthand RIFATAH SACRIFICE ~HONOR ~ VAL apartite i de la TOR VERY ~ SACRIFICE ~HONO RY - SAC BRAVERY - SAC LOR BRANCE NUT - VALOR - BRAVE NUM - HONOR ~ VAL HONO VIRY ACRIFICE ~H







### **Thomas Lee "Tom" Burton**

February 27, 1944 - March 1, 1969

1stLt – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 31W, Line 99

Tom was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee C. Burton, and they lived on Greenway Terrace in Del City. He graduated from Del City High School in 1962. A fellow pilot who knew Tom well remembers that he had a great sense of humor and never took himself too seriously, although he took his responsibilities very seriously.

Tom enlisted in the Marines, and his tour in Vietnam began on June 22, 1968. He was a USMC helicopter pilot assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 (HMM 164), Marine Air Group 36, 1st MAW, III MAF. Tom co-piloted a CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopter (tail number 152537) that had gone through extensive repairs. The CH-46 crashed during a low-level test acceptance flight due to a mechanical failure seven miles southeast of Hue City, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. Of the three crew members aboard that fateful flight, two survived and Tom was killed. Tom's length of service was four years, and he was 25 years old. Tom is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.



Air Medal

Vietnam

Service Medal



National Defense Service Medal



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



1stLt Tom Burton



1stLt Tom Burton



### Galvin Lee Duncan

December 18, 1947 – September 4, 1967

#### LCpl – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 25E, Line 98

Galvin was in the 11th grade at Capitol Hill High School when he and his family moved to Del City in 1964. He elected to finish high school at Capitol Hill so that he could graduate with his friends. While in high school, Galvin enjoyed his employment as a newspaper carrier for *The Daily Oklahoman*, and he won several awards for doing the job well. Galvin enlisted in the Marines shortly after graduating from high school in 1966, and he went through basic training at Camp Pendleton.

Galvin was the beloved son of Leroy and Wanda Duncan, and the oldest of seven children – three boys and four girls. His family feels the pain of losing him over 50 years ago as though it were yesterday. They miss him and keep his memory alive by talking about him often, especially to their children. He has a young nephew named Galvin in his honor.

Galvin's death devastated his entire family. When Wanda was notified of Galvin's death, Leroy was working at a construction site in Guymon, Oklahoma. A captain and a lieutenant



Purple



National Defense



Vietnam

Service Medal



drove Wanda to Guymon to tell Leroy about Galvin's death, a trip that Wanda dreaded. When they arrived at the site, "everyone on the crew threw their hardhats down" when they saw the government car arrive. "They knew it was bad," Wanda had said. Wanda became an active member of Gold Star Mothers. Years later, Leroy said "I've had relatives in all the wars. They all came back except my son. You have to learn to live with it." Leroy received a Purple Heart in World War II for shrapnel wounds he suffered in the South Pacific.

Galvin served with D Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. His length of service was between one and two years. Galvin was in Vietnam for less than three months and was 19 years old when he was killed in action by a gunshot wound sustained from hostile rifle fire on the first day of Operation Swift in Que Son Valley, in the vicinity of Dong Son (1), Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. Galvin is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery (Section 9), Del City, Oklahoma.



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal





### Ronald Clyde "Ron" High

December 16, 1949 - August 31, 1968

PFC – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 45W, Line 14



Ron lived on Pleasant graduated from Midwest City High School mid-term in 1967. He was an outstanding wrestler in high school, and he rode bareback broncos in rodeo competition. He could have avoided military service due to a torn knee and a thyroid condition, but instead Ron enlisted in the Marines at the age of 17. He completed basic training the summer of 1967.



National Defense Service Medal



Ron's family was crushed by his death. For years, his mother left his room just as it was before he went to Vietnam. Ron's nephew kept several shell casings from the 21 gun salute at Ron's funeral. He remembers that Ron was gung-ho and very proud to be a Marine. A friend recalls that Ron had a premonition he would die young.

Ron's tour of duty in Vietnam began on July 29, 1968, and

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

he served with the 3rd Platoon, H Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. He served for less than one year and was 18 years old when he was killed in action by machinegun fire during a night ground assault three miles west of the Rockpile in Quang Tri Province during Operation II (Truesdale). Scotland Ron is buried at Arlington Memory Gardens, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.







# Michael Clint "Mike" Hope "Oklahoma Indian"

October 10, 1940 - June 7, 1970

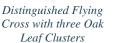
CPT – US Army Vietnam War Panel 9W, Line 24



Cluster

leader.







ike graduated from Del City High School

Lin 1958. While in high school, he was a

member of the National Honor Society, the State

Honor Society, and the "D" Club. He was also

on the basketball "A" team and the football team.

A high school classmate described Mike as a person of quiet authority, making him a natural





Purple Heart



with two V Devices

and Numerical

Device 44



Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and Oak Leaf Cluster



National Defense Service Medal



Vietnam Service Medal with Star



Four Republic of Vietnam Crosses of Gallantry



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

After high school, Mike attended the University of Oklahoma and later took a civilian job at Tinker Air Force Base. Watching all the planes at Tinker interested Mike, and he realized then that he wanted to become a pilot.

He enlisted in the Army in 1965 and graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1967. In April 1967, Mike went to Fixed Wing Flight School in





Ft. Stewart, Georgia. A friend who knew Mike before OCS and later went through Flight School with him remembers that Mike was a very outgoing guy that everyone liked.

Mike deployed to Vietnam on April 30, 1968, from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He was assigned a very desirable position of flying a twin engine turboprop airplane in Vietnam, but he quickly transferred to a combat unit, flying an unarmed O-1 Bird Dog in visual reconnaissance missions in support of the Republic of Vietnam 18th ARVN Infantry Division. Mike's O-1 Bird Dog was named "The Buzzard."

Mike was proud of his Native American heritage. His wartime nickname was "Oklahoma Indian."

The Republic of Vietnam acknowledged Mike's many acts of heroism by presenting him with four

Crosses of Gallantry for bravery, each for a different battle with the Viet Cong.

The Army posthumously awarded Mike the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with three clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with cluster, the Purple Heart, Air Medal with numerical device 44, and the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and cluster.

Mike served with the 74th AVN Company, 210th AVN Battalion, 12th AVN Group, 1st AVN Brigade. He was 29 years old and only 18 days away from completing his third and final tour in Vietnam when he was shot down and killed in action in Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam. Mike was divorced and the father of two children. He is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.

On October 5, 2018, the City of Del City dedicated its new Central Fire Station in memory of CPT Michael Clint Hope.



Captain Hope's O-1 Bird Dog, "The Buzzard"





### Vernon Joe Johnson

January 1, 1943 – November 11, 1967

SP4 - US Army Vietnam War Panel 29E, Line 73







Purple Heart



National Defense Service Medal



Vietnam Service Medal



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Vernon Joe was the loving son of Austin and Vera Kelley Johnson of Carnegie, Oklahoma. They had five children, and in order of birth they are Eleanor, Curtis, Cletis, Vernon Joe, and Evelyn Ruth. All three brothers are deceased.

Vernon Joe grew up on a farm five miles southeast of Carnegie, and graduated from Carnegie High School in 1961. A classmate remembers Vernon Joe as being quiet and "to himself," and that he always had a smile and never a harsh word. After graduating from high school, Vernon Joe worked at United Parts Co. and owned his first home in Del City. He married Jo Ann Baker on August 17, 1963.

Vernon Joe was a Christian and an honorable man. He was honest and hardworking. The neighborhood children and his nephews loved him and always wanted to play with him when he came home from work. He enjoyed working on his lawn to make it lush and green, and he enjoyed watching funny movies, cartoons, *The Three Stooges* and *Hogan's Heroes*. He cared deeply about the dogs and cats that lived on the farm he grew up on, and he asked his parents about them while he was in Vietnam. Vernon Joe's family was crushed by his death, and it changed them forever.

Vernon Joe was drafted into the Army on August 23, 1966, and his tour in Vietnam began on February 24, 1967. He was assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. Vernon Joe served for one year and was 24 years old when he died while missing in action on Hill 724, twelve kilometers southwest of Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam, during Operation MacArthur. Twenty other men from the 3rd Battalion died on Hill 724 that day, during the final major engagement of the Battle for Dak To. He had no children. Vernon Joe is buried at Carnegie Cemetery in Carnegie, Oklahoma.







Harold "Leslie" Jones

August 12, 1949 - May 8, 1969

LCpl – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 25W, Line 23

eslie was the only son of Harold and Rachel Jones, and the loving brother of Carolyn, Sharon, Ella and Debbie. He went to Del City High School.

Leslie was a fun-loving guy, and he liked to drive around town in his blue Mustang fastback. He was trained and very skilled at boxing. Because he was tall and lanky, and had a baby face, most people were surprised by his boxing abilities - they never expected the punch he packed. His friends knew how good he was, and they called him the "Baby Faced Assassin."

Leslie enlisted in the Marines when he left high school. He went to boot camp in January 1968, and his tour of duty in Vietnam began on July 9, 1968.

Leslie was a respected and tough Marine, who was looked to for leadership. He led by example and never asked anything of his Marines that he had not already done. There were times he was afraid in combat like everyone else, but he was always able to put his fear aside and get the mission accomplished. He was admired by everyone in his squad and platoon.

One of Leslie's favorite pastimes in Vietnam was writing to his girlfriend back home. He liked to show pictures of her, and he talked about her constantly. He planned to marry her and go into his father's plumbing business when he returned home. Another pastime of Leslie's was playing cards, especially "Spades," and he won money at it more than a few times.





**Purple Heart** 

Navy Achievement Medal with V device





National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal



Campaign Medal



Leslie had a great sense of humor, and he was a prankster. For fun, he played practical jokes on new recruits by sending them to the officers on errands that made them look foolish. He could dish out kidding, and he could take it with the best of them. Leslie enjoyed life and made sure that those around him did too. He liked Marines who stood their ground and stood up to him. On rare occasions, his boxing skills were put on display. He never started a fight, but he certainly finished a few.

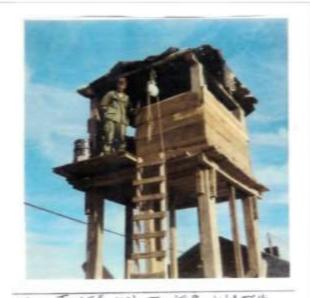
Leslie was loyal to his friends, and they are loyal to him. They miss him and think of him often. Several of them have gotten together through the years to hold memorial services for him in Del City. In 2009, two friends went to Vietnam to hold a memorial service at the rice paddy where he was killed.

One of these two friends is a man who served with Leslie and was his best friend in Vietnam. He remembers Leslie as the finest Marine and squad leader he had ever seen. He says of Leslie that "He died like many Marines, attempting to extract three wounded Marines pinned down by heavy small arms fire. He led a flanking movement that took out a machinegun, but was subsequently killed by an RPG. The rescued Marines owe [him] their life. I know because I was one of them."

Leslie served with L Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, and he served between one and two years. Leslie was 19 years old when he died of multiple fragmentation wounds from rocket propelled grenade rounds fired from a tree line when his squad was ambushed southwest of Danang near Hill 55 and Charley Ridge, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, during Operation Oklahoma Hills. Five men were wounded at that time, and as far as is known, Leslie was the only one of the five to die from his injuries. Leslie was posthumously awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with Valor device. Leslie is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.



Harold Leslie Jones



M.L. JONES ON TOWER WATCH SEPT '68'.





### James Robert "Bob" Kalsu

April 13, 1945 – July 21, 1970

1LT - US Army Vietnam War Panel 8W, Line 38







al Purple Heart

Army Commendation Medal

**B** ob attended the University of Oklahoma after graduating from Del City High School in 1963. At OU, he lettered in varsity football for three years, made the All Big 8 team, and was named an Oklahoma Sooner All-American Tackle in 1967. Upon graduation from OU, Bob was the eighth-round draft pick of the Buffalo Bills. He was voted the Bills' Rookie of the Year in 1968. Bob began fulfilling his ROTC obligation with the Army following his promising rookie season.

A former student at Townsend Elementary School in Del City remembers that when Bob substituted for his sixth-grade class, he was both kind and gentle, and generous with his time. Others who served with Bob remember him as a first-class officer who knew his business, especially during combat fire missions. He never barked out orders but rather carried a voice of authority that was matched by his character and





Service Medal





Vietnam Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

genuineness as "one of the men." Bob was asked many times what he—a pro football player—was doing in Vietnam, and he always responded that he was no different from anyone there. Bob had a big smile and a strong handshake.

Bob was married and the father of a daughter and son. His son, Bob Jr., was born two days after Bob's death.

Bob's tour of duty in Vietnam began on November 15, 1969, and he served with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He was 25 years old when he was killed in action by heavy rocket, mortar or artillery fire on Fire Base Ripcord near the Ashau Valley in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. Bob is buried at Resthaven Gardens Cemetery in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

In a dedication ceremony on February 5, 2016, the Del City Post Office was renamed in honor of LT James Robert Kalsu.





## Jimmy Meryl Mullins

December 12, 1945 – April 21, 1967

LCpl – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 18E, Line 61





National Defense Service Medal



Republic of

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Jimmy was the son of Richard M. and Arletha Mullins of Del City. He had two brothers and two sisters, and was the third of five children born to Richard and Arletha. His brothers and sisters are Melford D. "Doyle" Mullins (deceased) of Phoenix, Arizona; Mary Trower of Norman; Roy Mullins of Del City; and Sue Jones of Oklahoma City.

Jimmy graduated from Del City High School in 1965. He was raised in Del City, in a close-knit family. During high school, Jimmy worked with his mom at Don's Drive-In. His mom was one of the first employees to work at Don's. Jimmy, his dad, and his younger brother Roy enjoyed working on cars together, and they often went hunting and fishing together. Jimmy and Roy were Boy Scouts. Their dad was a scout leader, and their mom was also very involved in the Boy Scouts.

Jimmy's older brother Doyle was in the Air Force for nine years, and his younger brother Roy was an Army paratrooper while Jimmy served as a Marine.

Jimmy enlisted in the Marines on June 7, 1965, and he served with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, and his length of service was two years. Jimmy was 21 years old when he was killed in action, along with five other fine Marines, during an ambush attack while on patrol near "Elephant Valley," upriver from Hill 190 in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. Jimmy is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.









### Gerald Loyd "Gary" Parsons

April 4, 1947 - May 1, 1968

PFC – US Army Vietnam War Panel 53E, Line 40











Vietnam Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Gary was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parsons, and the brother of Greg, Michael, Cathey Ann and Connie Parsons. He graduated from Del City High School in 1965 and attended one semester at Central State College (now Central State University). He entered the Army on October 17, 1966 and took basic training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, advanced individual training (infantry school) at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, and parachute jump training at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Gary became very good friends with a man while in jump training at Ft. Benning. The two friends got orders for Vietnam at exactly the same time, and ended up assigned to the same battalion of the 101st Airborne, but in different companies. They saw each other 3 or 4 times in Vietnam before Gary died. Gary's friend says that "Gary was big and tall, and always had a toothy grin on display for everyone he met." He also says he has never met a kinder soul than Gary, and that Gary was well liked.

Gary's tour of duty in Vietnam began on September 27, 1967. He was a machine-gunner in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Gary served between one and two years and was 21 years old when he was killed in action by small arms fire at Ap Cao Xa, four kilometers northwest of Hue, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. Gary is buried at Stroud Cemetery, Stroud, Oklahoma.











Gary Parsons (left)





### Ronald Wade "Ronnie" Patton

March 26, 1949 – November 23, 1967

CPL – US Army Vietnam War Panel 30E, Line 72



R onnie is remembered by a younger classmate at Del Crest Junior High in Del City as a very nice person, especially to his younger classmates, and that he was tall and handsome, and had a beautiful smile. He seemed a little shy at times and a little rough at times.

A neighborhood friend remembers Ronnie as a generous person and a great storyteller. He says that Ronnie "presented himself as a tough guy in the neighborhood, but deep down



National Defense Service Medal



inside he was the kindest person you'd ever meet." At one time Ronnie fixed this friend's go-kart when it broke down and the steering wheel came off in front of Ronnie's house. His friend never forgot that act of kindness. He says that Ronnie "married the girl next door ... just before he went off to war in Vietnam." He remembers learning of Ronnie's death, and how it was the worst news he ever heard, and how devastated the people in Del City were by Ronnie's death.



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Ronnie's tour of duty in Vietnam began on September 19, 1967. He served with HHC, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. Ronnie was 18 years old and had been in Vietnam only two months when he was killed in action by an explosive device in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam. He was posthumously promoted to corporal. Ronnie is buried at Red Star Cemetery, Roger Mills County, Leedey, Oklahoma.





### Eldon Ray "Duke" Payne

February 7, 1939 – February 14, 1970

WO1 – US Army Vietnam War Panel 13W, Line 9

Duke spent nearly 10 years in various Special Forces Groups, including the 5th SFG(A), the 6th SFG(A), and was one of the original founders of 46th Special Forces Company in Thailand in 1966, before becoming a UH-1H Huey pilot.

At the time of his death, Duke served with the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, 17th CAG, 1st Aviation Brigade. His tour of duty in Vietnam began on June 2, 1969, and his length of service was 12 years.

Duke was married at the time of his death at 31 years old. He and five others were killed when their Huey went out of control and crashed into trees during a low-altitude sniffer mission at Dong Bo Mountain, five nautical miles southwest of Nha Trang in Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam. Duke is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma, in Section 10, Block 2, Row 7, Position 36.





Air Medal



Vietnam Service Medal



National Defense Service Medal



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal







# Larry Lloyd Riley

April 27, 1947 – May 24, 1968

#### LCpl – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 69E, Line 1

Larry's parents were Lawrence and Estlean Riley. Larry attended elementary school and junior high in Del City, and he went to high school at Carl Albert in Midwest City. He was a wrestler and an outstanding athlete through junior high and high school. He was married to Linda (Prigmore) Riley and had two children, Dawn and Lenice. Larry's daughter Lenice retired from the United States Air Force after 25 years of service.



Purple Heart



Vietnam Service Medal





Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



Larry's tour of duty in Vietnam began on February 24, 1968. He was assigned to G Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marines Division. He served for less than one year and was 21 years old when he was killed in action by small arms fire when the 2/3 Marines engaged enemy forces above QL-9, five kilometers Southeast of Khe Sanh Airfield in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. Fifteen other men from the 2/3 Marines were killed in action during heavy fighting that day. Larry is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.







### Frederick Wright "Ricky" Sanders

September 12, 1947 – December 6, 1967

LCpl – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 31E, Line 53





Purple Heart



National Defense Service Medal



Vietnam Service Medal



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

**R**icky was the son of Frederick and Mary Sanders, and brother of Robin Lee Sanders, and they live on Cheek Place in Del City. He went to Kerr Junior High in Del City and graduated from Del City High School in May, 1966. He played French horn in the high school band.

Ricky enlisted in the Marine Corps on November 14, 1966, and his tour of duty in Vietnam began on May 15, 1967. He was assigned to 2nd Platoon, H Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division. He was in Vietnam for 6 months and 21 days and served for one year. Ricky was 20 years old and was on his last combat mission before returning home when he was killed in action by an explosive device during an attack on his platoon base, nine kilometers north, northeast of Dien Ban, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. Ricky is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.









### Jimmy Doyle "Jim" Sanders

February 26, 1950 – January 3, 1970

CPL – US Army Vietnam War Panel 15W, Line 123



Bronze Star Medal

Ó

Purple Heart



Army Good Conduct Medal



Vietnam Service Medal





Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Jim was a resident of Del City, and he attended Del City High School before graduating from Midwest City High School in 1968. He attended the Southwest Technical School for Engineering and Drafting. Jim built cars and raced them on the street. He drove a Fairlane 500 convertible with a 260 V-8, and he blueprinted its engine. Following high school, Jim worked in Dallas, and was designing bridge construction when he was drafted.

Jim's family has a proud tradition of service to our country. Jim's father, Clifton C. "C.C." Sanders, was a Marine in World War II. He was captured at Wake Island and spent three and a half years in a prison camp in Japan. He came back stateside to San Diego, where he was in the hospital for over a year. C.C. had eight brothers, all of whom were Marines and served in WWII. They all survived the war. Jim's death was very hard on his family, and they were never the same afterwards.

Jim served with D Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Calvary Division, and he was posthumously promoted to Corporal. He served less than one year and was 19 years old when he was killed in action by artillery, rocket or mortar during an attack on his camp in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam. Jim is buried at Noble IOOF Cemetery, Noble, Oklahoma.

On November 1, 2016, the City of Del City dedicated its new Public Works Administration Building in memory of Jim Sanders.









Bronze Star Medal



Two Purple Hearts



National Defense Service Medal





Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



### William Michael "Mike" Saunders

September 14, 1949 – March 23, 1968

#### PFC – US Army Vietnam War Panel 46E, Line 1

Mike watched the war in Vietnam unfold while he was a student at Del City High School. As the war progressed, he felt bad about being on the sidelines and believed he needed to do his part for his country. As a result, Mike left high school and enlisted in the Army at the age of 17.

Mike loved to dance and was a good dancer. When he came home on leave before deploying to Vietnam, he went to several dances at the Del City Community Center. He wore his uniform to the dances and everywhere else he went in public. He was proud to serve his country, and his bearing always honored the uniform he wore.

Mike's tour of duty in Vietnam began on December 14, 1967. In January 1968, Mike was shot and wounded. He received a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart, and was returned to duty when his wounds healed.

Mike was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry in action two days prior to his death for distinguishing "... himself during an attack on his battery near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. They were attacked by a numerically superior force of North Vietnamese Army Regulars. Completely disregarding his personal safety, Private First Class Saunders ran from his bunker to the guns while enemy mortar rounds and rocket propelled grenades were landing all around him. While he was preparing the



ammunition for the howitzer, he realized that a member of his battery was helplessly pinned down by the enemy fire. Private First Saunders courageously charged Class through the bullet swept area to the perimeter where he could provide suppressive fire against the enemy forces. He returned through a hail of enemy bullets to the guns and continued to prepare ammunition to be fired on the oncoming enemy. When Private First Class Saunders saw an enemy grenade rolling into the trench where six members of the battery were working he shouted a warning in order that the men could seek cover, and was fatally wounded by the Private First Class Saunders' grenade. personal bravery and devotion to duty were

in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army." [General Orders: Headquarters, 101st Air Cavalry Division, General Orders No. 4338, August 3, 1968.]

Mike was a paratrooper in B Battery, 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He served for one year and was 18 years old when he died of wounds from a grenade explosion in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. Mike is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma, in Section 10, Block 2, Row 11, Position 86.









### **Ricky Lee Shackelford**

October 12, 1947 – June 9, 1968

SP4 – US Army Vietnam War Panel 58W, Line 14









Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Ricky lived in Del City and graduated from Crooked Oak High School in 1967. He is remembered by a classmate as a happy-golucky guy with a great smile. Another classmate remembers Ricky as the funniest classmate he'd ever had. A young arrival in Vietnam says that Ricky was the first person to show him the ropes there, and that Ricky was so friendly and helpful that he put the new arrival at ease.

Ricky's tour of duty in Vietnam began on January 17, 1968. He was a Light-wheel Vehicle Mechanic in HHC Company, 525th Military Intelligence Group. Ricky served for less than one year and was 20 years old when he was killed in action by gunshot or small arms fire near Saigon in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Ricky is buried at Resthaven Gardens Cemetery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.







### Kenneth W. "Ken" Skinner, III

May 1, 1948 – June 16, 1968

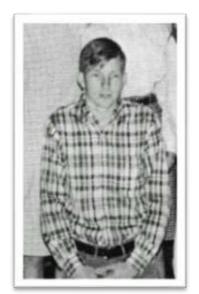
PFC – US Army Vietnam War Panel 56W, Line 8

Ken graduated from Midwest City High School in 1967.

His tour in Vietnam started on April 21, 1968, and Ken was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Ken served for less than one year and was 20 years old when he was killed in action



by small arms fire during Operation Toan Thang, four miles southwest of Di An in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam. Nine other men from the 1/26 were killed during this action. Ken is buried at Arlington Memory Gardens, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Ken Skinner, President, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America - 1967 Midwest City (Oklahoma) High School Yearbook



Purple Heart



National Defense Service Medal



Vietnam Service Medal



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal





### **Ronald Eugene "Ronnie Thompson**

#### November 29, 1944 – January 30, 1968

PFC – US Marine Corps Vietnam War Panel 35E, Line 83







National Defense Service Medal







Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Ronnie graduated from Crooked Oak High School in 1963. He was all-conference quarterback on the Crooked Oak High School football team. He was a team leader and a tough player. He didn't know the word "quit." All the underclassmen looked up to him, especially football players. Ronnie also played baseball, shot pool and was a good poker player. He had a reputation for being a good fighter, and even though he had a bit of a temper and got in a few fights, his friends and classmates remember him as a gentle man, who had a great smile and beautiful blue eyes. Ronnie always dressed well and always drove a cool car to school.

Military service was a tradition in Ronnie's family. His father had been a POW in World War II.

Ronnie's family found out about his death when they returned home from an outing one day. They turned the corner onto their street and saw an unfamiliar vehicle and two Marines in front of their home. On seeing that, Ronnie's mom, Lena, gripped the dashboard so hard that she left indelible finger impressions in the dash. Ronnie's family was devastated by his death, and Lena was never the same afterwards.

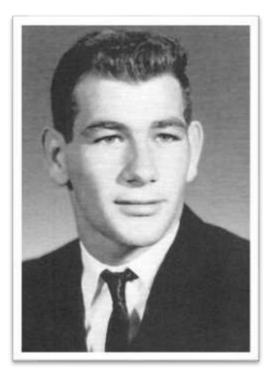
Ronnie was to be married when he came back from Vietnam. His girlfriend will never forget him, and a piece of her heart still aches for him, almost 50 years later. She will always remember how cute he was, his sense of humor, his athleticism, his love for his little sisters and his mom, and his sparkling blue eyes. During their senior year in high school, Ronnie was the quarterback, and she was the homecoming queen.



Ronnie was the first student from Crooked Oak High School to be killed in Vietnam, and the school closed for his funeral.

Ronnie's tour in Vietnam started August 16, 1967, and he was assigned to G Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division. He served for one year and was 23 years old

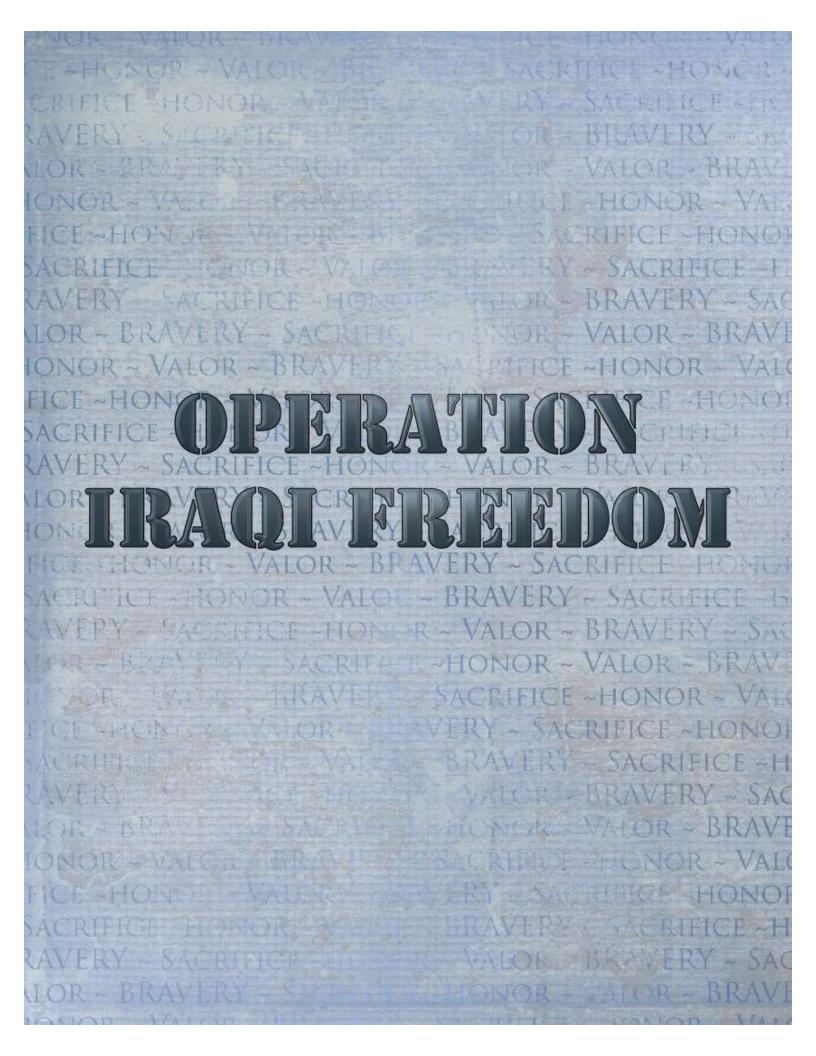
when he was killed in action by small arms fire on the east bank of Song Yen River, four km south, southeast of Tuy Loan Bridge in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Ronnie is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.

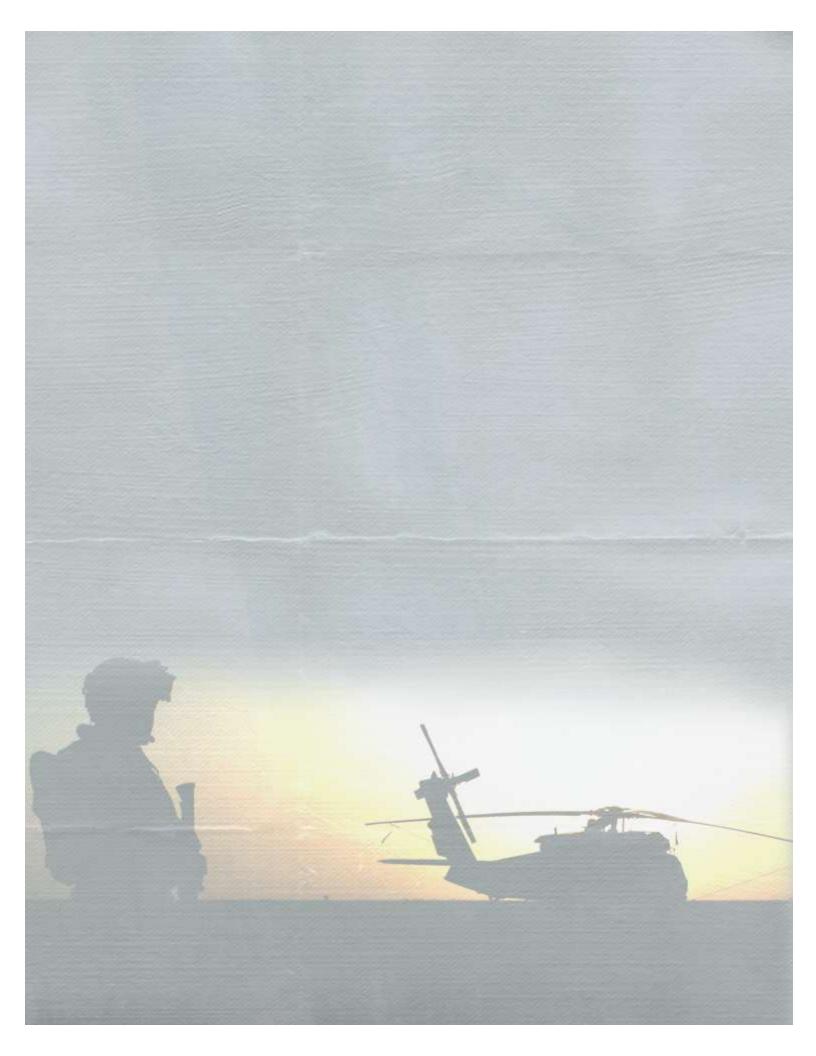


High school picture of Ronnie Thompson













# William W. "Wild Bill"

### Labadie, Jr.

October 8, 1958 – April 7, 2004

#### SFC – Army National Guard Operation Iraqi Freedom

**College** (Associate in Arts) in 1998.

Bill served in the US Marine Corps for eight years, and later for a total of 15 years in both the Oklahoma and Arkansas Army National Guard. He was known as a real soldier's soldier. He took his responsibilities seriously and was enthused about the opportunity of once again serving his country.

Bill's wife, Sunnie, says that although she realizes Bill died for his country and that people see him as a hero, he was always a hero to his family, and his death devastated them. Bill is the father of one son, Bryan. After returning from Iraq, Bill intended to build a home near his parents' home in Arkansas and move his family there. Among other projects, he had plans to start a Boy Scout troop when he returned home.

Bill was a member of Troop E, 151st Cavalry Squadron, 39th Infantry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. He was fatally wounded when his camp south of Baghdad, Iraq, came under a mortar and small arms attack, just 15 days after his deployment and when he was in a combat zone for less than 24 hours. He was 45 years old.











# Gary L. Moore

January 14, 1984 – March 16, 2009

#### CPL – Army National Guard Operation Iraqi Freedom







Conduct Medal





Iraq Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal







ary lived in Del City and worked as a security guard at Quail Springs Mall in Oklahoma City before joining the military in January 2007.

Gary was a member of the 978th Military Police Company, 93rd Military Police Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was deployed to Iraq in June 2008 to help provide training and oversight of the Iraqi police force. He was proud to serve his country.

Soldiers remember Gary as a caring man who thought of others first, and that he carried a Bible with him wherever he went. Others remember that he loved to eat (especially Italian food), he was friendly and always smiling, he had a strong handshake, he had a lot of friends, he loved football and playing volleyball, and he always talked about his fiancée. Gary's wedding was to take place on November 14, 2009 in Oklahoma City.

Gary was 25 years old when he died of wounds he received from a roadside bomb explosion next to his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. Gary is buried at Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma.



