

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

# 1971

**In memory of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Rakkasans who lost their lives in the Republic of Vietnam.**

**Never Forget!**

**Never Forgotten!**

NE DESIT VIRTUS

*Photos and information obtained from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund – Wall of Faces, The Virtual Wall, Honorstates.org, The Coffelt Database and the Veterans who served. The Steel Thread Project is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization. Speak Their Names was compiled for research, educational and memorial purposes only – not for resale, reproduction or commercial use.*

SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

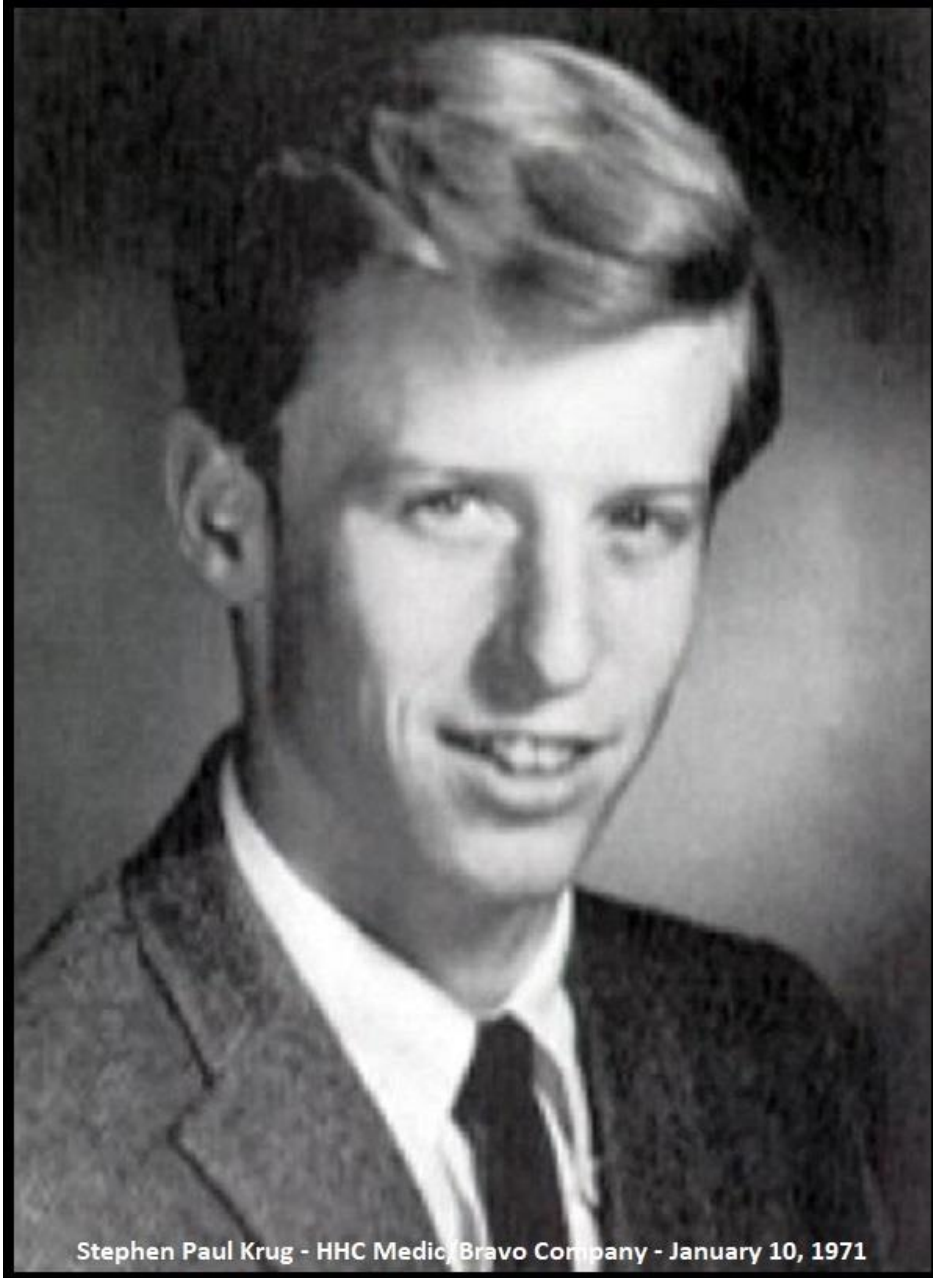


SPEAK THEIR NAMES...



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## January 1971



**January 10, 1971**  
**Stephen Paul Krug**

Operation Jefferson  
Glen - Thua Thien  
Province

Stephen Paul Krug arrived in Vietnam in June of 1970. He served as a HHC Medic, assigned to Bravo Company, 3/187th. Stephen was killed in action on January 10, 1971 during a combat operation when he detonated a booby-trap.

Stephen was from San Mateo, California and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 5W, Line 38.



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## February 1971



### February 15, 1971 John William Howell

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam  
Son 719 – Quang  
Tri Province

John William  
Howell arrived in  
Vietnam in  
September of  
1970. He served  
with Delta  
Company,  
3/187th. John was  
killed in action on  
February 15, 1971  
during a combat  
operation,  
southwest of Ca  
Lu Airfield.

John was from  
Bolivar,  
Tennessee and  
was twenty-one  
years of age. He is  
buried at Hebron  
Cemetery,

Hardeman County, Tennessee. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 5W, Line 106.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## February 1971



Richard Bennett Rinehart - Delta Company, February 15, 1971

**February 15,  
1971  
Richard Bennett  
Rinehart**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province

Richard Bennett  
Rinehart arrived in  
Vietnam in January  
of 1971. He served  
with Delta Company,  
3/187th. Richard  
was killed in action  
on February 15,  
1971 during a  
combat operation  
southwest of Ca Lu  
Airfield.

Richard was from  
Natick,  
Massachusetts and  
was twenty-two  
years of age. He is  
buried at Glenwood  
Cemetery, Natick,  
Massachusetts. His  
name is etched on

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 5W, Line 108.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## February 1971



### February 19, 1971 Wade Hampton Rollins

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province

Wade Hampton  
Rollins arrived in  
Vietnam in March of  
1970. He served  
with Echo Company,  
Recon, 3/187th.  
Wade was killed in  
action on February  
19, 1971 as Recon  
was returning to a  
landing zone after a  
combat operation  
and was ambushed.

Wade was from  
Waldorf, Maryland  
and was twenty-four  
years of age. He is  
buried at Trinity  
Memorial Gardens,  
Waldorf, Maryland.  
His name is etched  
on the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial Wall Panel 5W, Line 121.



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## February 1971



**February 20,  
1971  
Chester George  
Lyons**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province

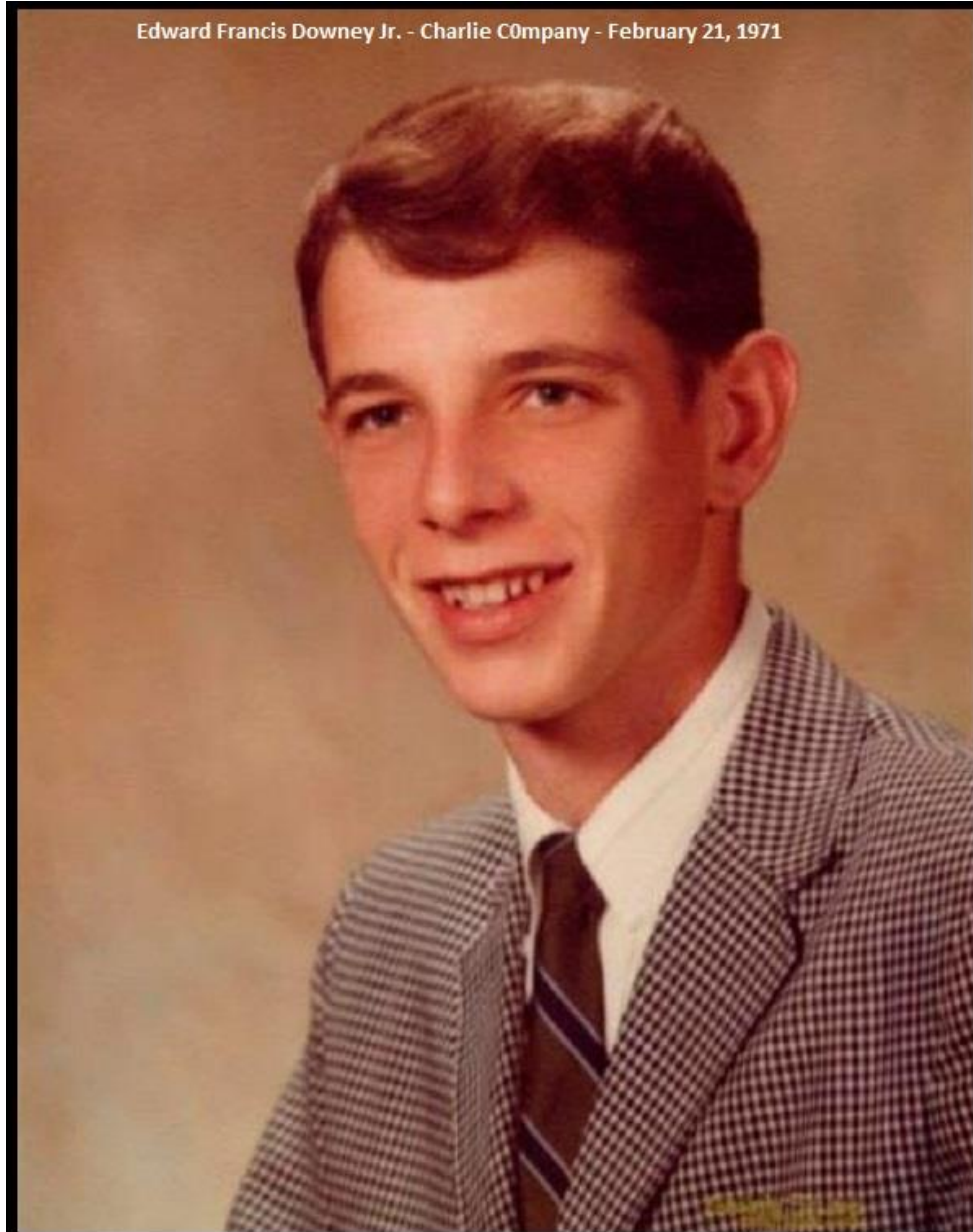
Chester George  
Lyons arrived in  
Vietnam in August  
of 1970. He served  
with Charlie  
Company, 3/187th.  
Chester was killed  
in action on  
February 20, 1971  
during a combat  
operation near Fire  
Support Base  
Scotch and Purple  
Heart Hill (Nu Bai  
Lao) – Northwest of  
Ca Lu Airfield.

Chester was from  
San Jose California  
and was twenty-  
three years of age.  
His burial site is  
currently unknown.

His name is etched on the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall, Panel 5W, Line 125.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## February 1971



**February 21,  
1971**

**Edward Francis  
Downey Jr.**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province

Edward Francis  
Downey Jr arrived  
in Vietnam in July  
of 1970. He served  
with Charlie  
Company,  
3/187th. Edward  
was killed in  
action as a result  
of a NVA mortar  
attack on Charlie  
Company position  
on Nu Bai Lao  
near Fire Support  
Base Scotch –  
northwest of Ca  
Lu Airfield.

Edward was from  
Cleveland, Ohio  
and was twenty-  
one years of age.

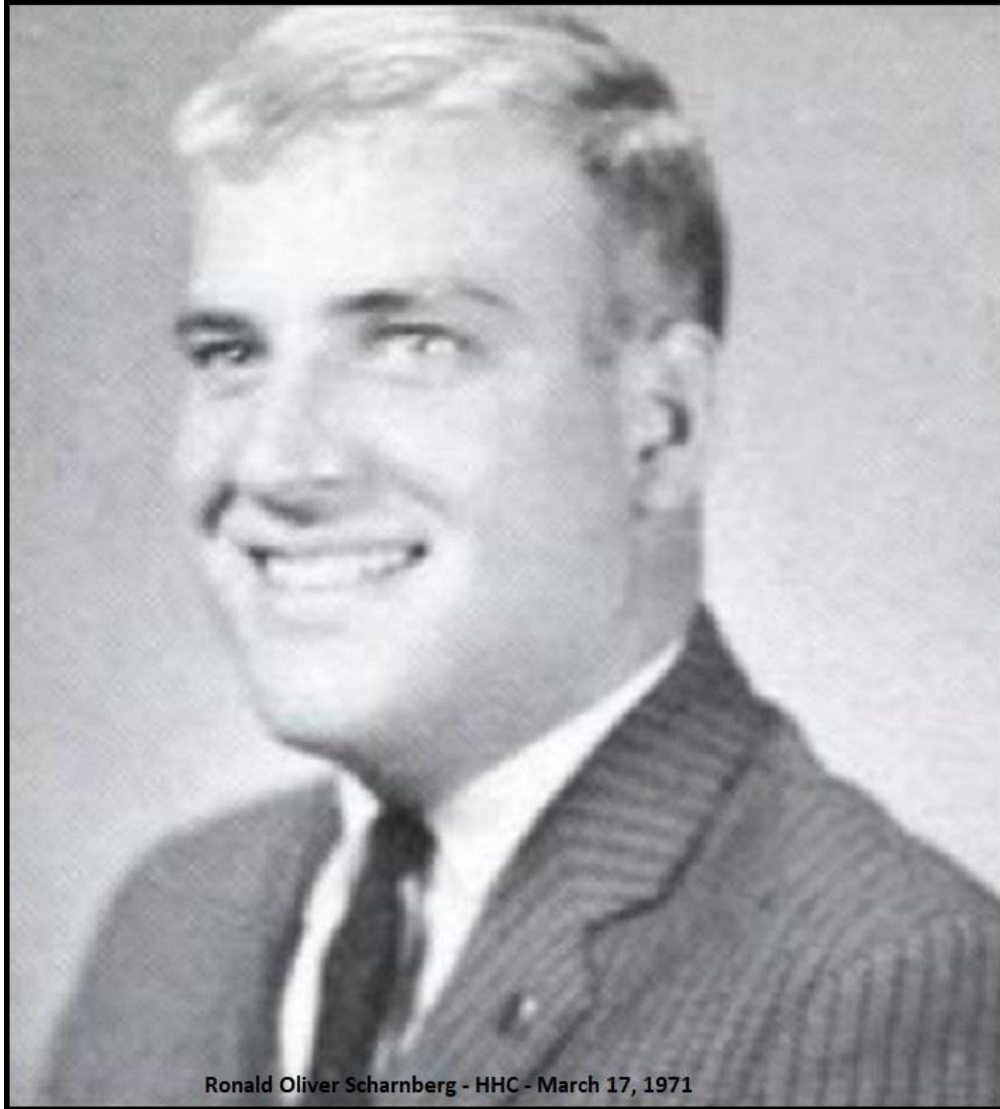
He is buried at Calvary Cemetery, Youngstown, Ohio. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 5W, Line 128.

SPEAK THEIR NAMES...



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



Ronald Oliver Scharnberg - HHC - March 17, 1971

**March 17,  
1971  
Major Ronald  
Oliver  
Scharnberg**

Operation  
Dewey Canyon  
II/Lam Son 719  
– Quang Tri  
Province

Major Ronald  
Oliver  
Scharnberg  
arrived in  
Vietnam in  
September of  
1970. Major  
Scharnberg and  
the 3/187th  
Battalion  
Commander,  
LTC Sutton were  
killed in action  
on March 17,  
1971 when the observation

helicopter in which they were riding, crashed into the side of a mountain, west to northwest of Khe Sahn Combat Base.

Ronald was from Newport, Arkansas and was twenty-nine years of age. He is buried at Walnut Grove Cemetery, Newport, Arkansas. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 56.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## March 1971



**March 17, 1971**  
**LTC Bryan James**  
**Sutton**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province

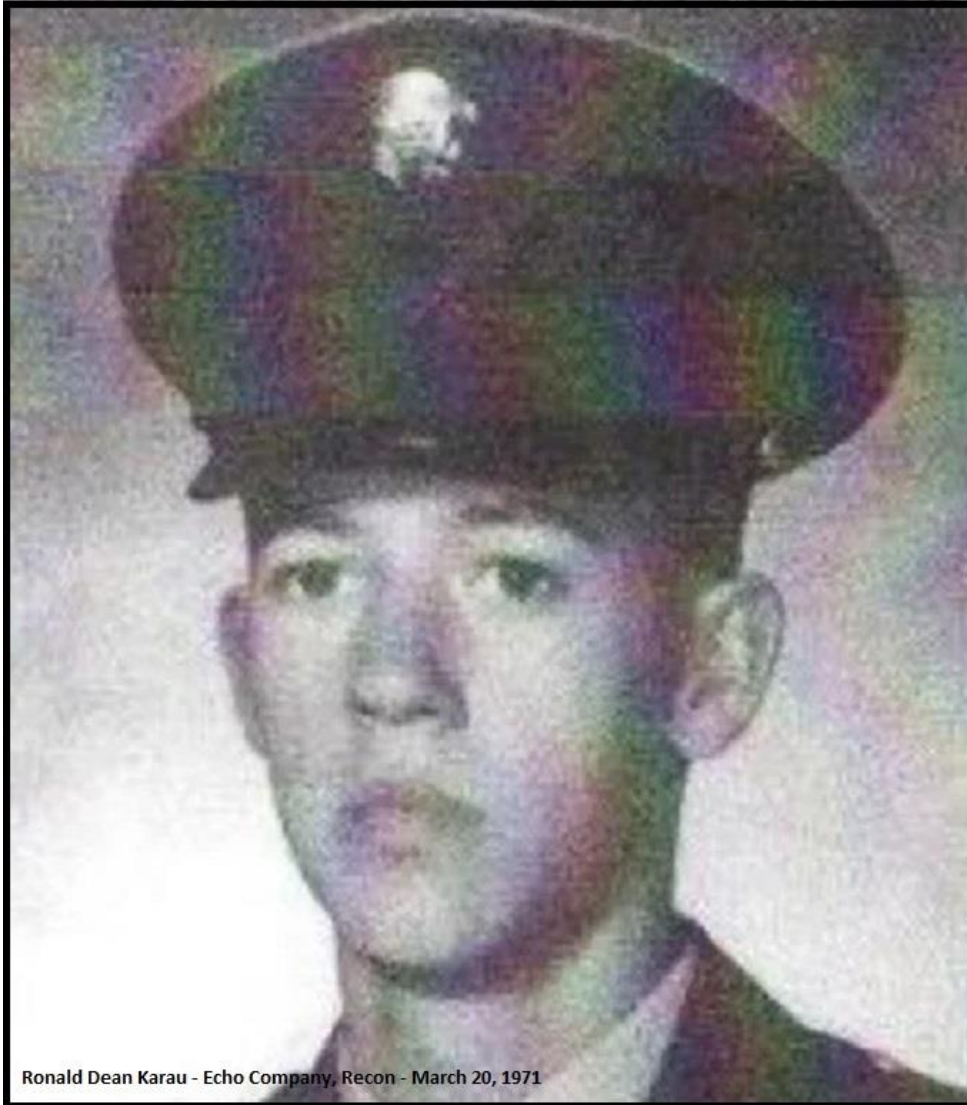
LTC Bryan James Sutton arrived in Vietnam in August of 1970. He was on his second tour in Vietnam. LTC Sutton and Major Scharnberg were killed in action on March 17, 1971 when the observation helicopter in which they were riding, crashed into the side of a mountain, west to northwest of Khe Sahn Combat Base.

LTC Sutton was the highest ranking 3/18<sup>th</sup> Officer to lose his life in Vietnam.

LTC Sutton was from Alhambra, California and was thirty-seven years old. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 56.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



Ronald Dean Karau - Echo Company, Recon - March 20, 1971

**March 20, 1971**  
**Ronald Dean**  
**Karau**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 - Quang Tri  
Province

Ronald Dean Karau arrived in Vietnam in September of 1970. He served with Echo Company, Recon Platoon, 3/187th. Ronald and another Echo Company soldier were killed in action on March 20, 1971 during a combat operation northwest of Khe Sanh Combat Base.

Ronald was from Lewisville, Minnesota and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at ST John's Lutheran Cemetery, Watonwan County, Minnesota. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 61.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## March 1971



John Leroy Truesdell - Echo Company, Recon - March 20, 1971

**March 20, 1971**

**John Leroy  
Truesdell**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son 719  
– Quang Tri Province

John Leroy Truesdell arrived in Vietnam in September of 1970. He served with Echo Company, Recon Platoon, 3/187th. John and another Echo Company soldier were killed in action on March 20, 1971 during a combat operation northwest of Khe Sanh Combat Base.

John was from Enid, Oklahoma and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 62.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## March 1971



Reginald Joe Abernathy - Charlie Company - March 22, 1971

**March 22, 1971**  
**Reginald Joe**  
**Abernathy**

Operation Dewey Canyon  
II/Operation Lam Son 717  
- Quang Tri Province

Reginald Joe Abernathy arrived in Vietnam on January 9, 1971. He served with Charlie Company, 3/187th. Reginald and four other Charlie Company soldiers were killed in action on March 22, 1971 when their night defensive position west-northwest of Khe Sanh Combat Base was attacked by NVA.

Reginald was from Maiden, North Carolina and was twenty-two years of age. He is buried at Salem Lutheran and UCC Cemetery, Lincolnton, North Carolina. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 65.



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## March 1971



### March 22, 1971 William Henry Fells

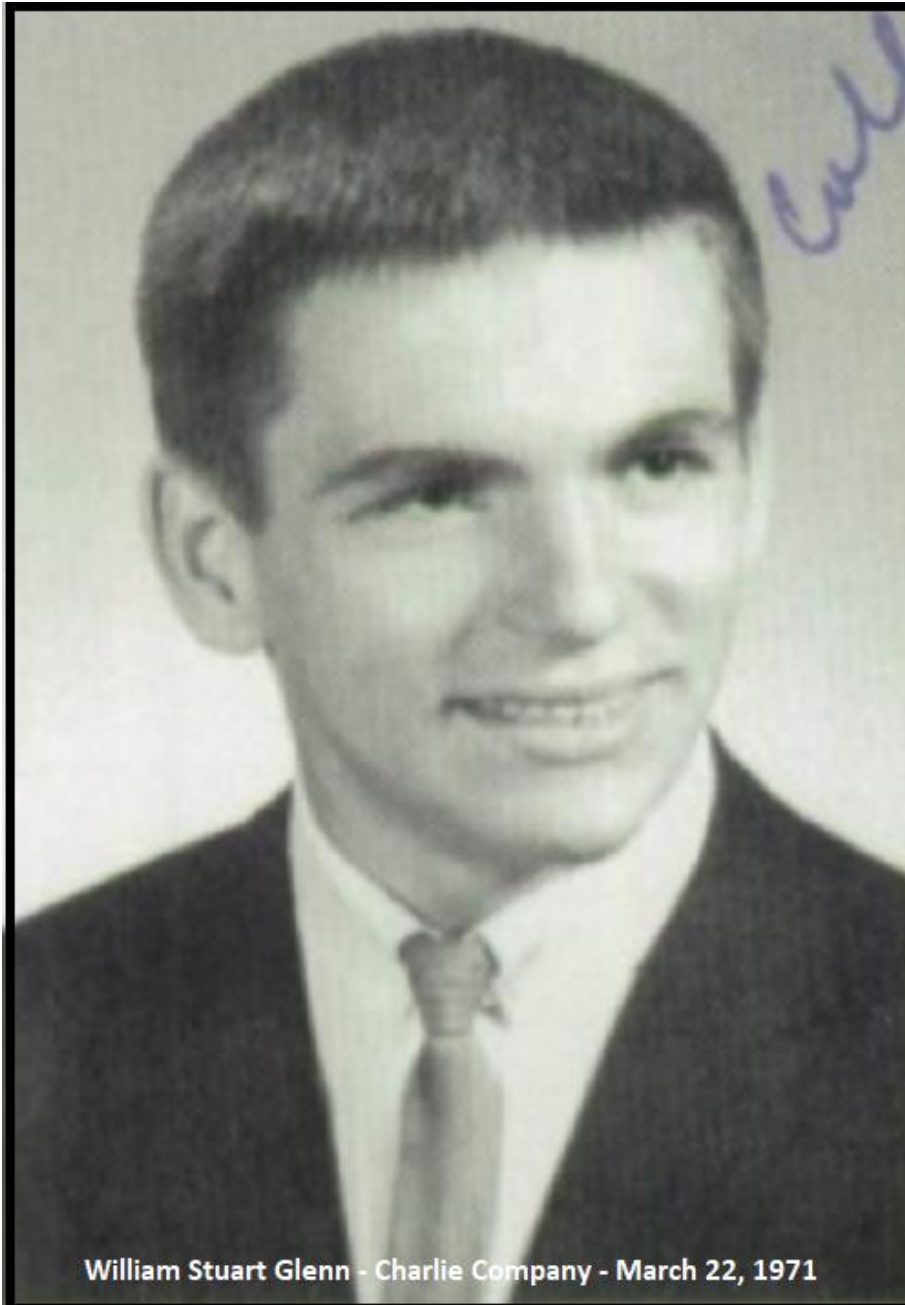
Operation Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719 - Quang Tri Province

William Henry Fells arrived in Vietnam in February of 1971. He served with Charlie Company, 3/187th. William and four other Charlie Company soldiers were killed in action on March 22, 1971 when their night defensive position west-northwest of Khe Sanh Combat Base was attacked by NVA.

William was from Washington, DC and was twenty years of age. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 65.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## March 1971



**March 22, 1971**  
**William Stuart**  
**Glenn**

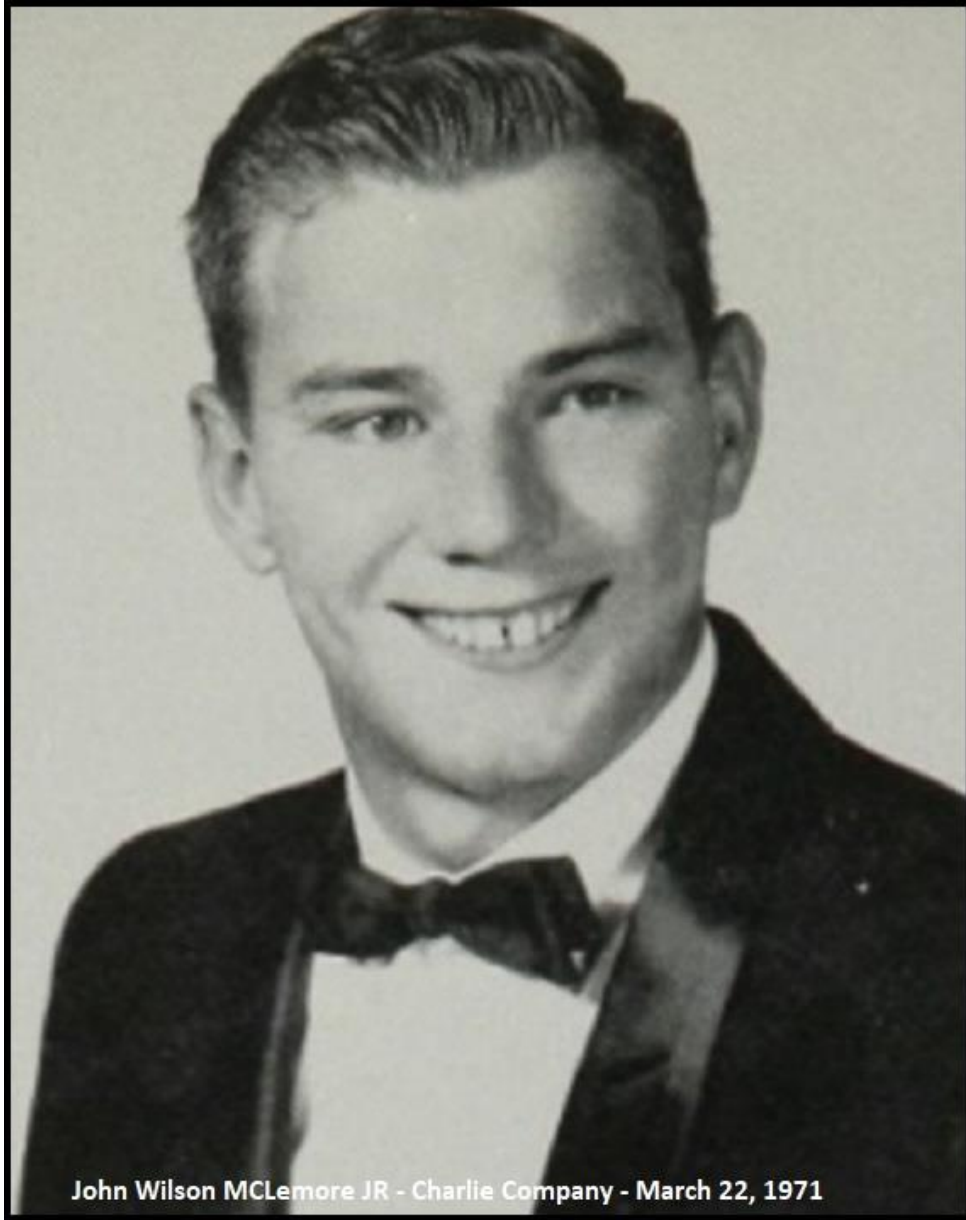
Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son 719  
- Quang Tri Province

William Stuart Glenn arrived in Vietnam in January of 1971. He served with Charlie Company, 3/187th. William and four other Charlie Company soldiers were killed in action on March 22, 1971 when their night defensive position west-northwest of Khe Sanh Combat Base was attacked by NVA.

William was from Akron, Ohio and was twenty-two years of age. He is buried at Lakewood Cemetery, Akron, Ohio. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 66.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



**John Wilson McLemore JR - Charlie Company - March 22, 1971**

**March 22, 1971**  
**John Wilson**  
**McLemore, Jr**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 - Quang Tri  
Province

John Wilson  
McLemore Jr  
arrived in Vietnam  
in February of  
1971. He served  
with Charlie  
Company,  
3/187th. John and  
four other Charlie  
Company soldiers  
were killed in  
action on March  
22, 1971 when  
their night  
defensive position  
west-northwest of  
Khe Sanh Combat  
Base was attacked  
by NVA.

John was from  
Fresno, California  
and was twenty-

four years of age. He is buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, California. His name is etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 68.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



**March 22, 1971**  
**Roger William**  
**Stahl**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 - Quang Tri  
Province

Roger William Stahl arrived in Vietnam in October of 1970. He served with Charlie Company, 3/187th. Roger and four other Charlie Company soldiers were killed in action on March 22, 1971 when their night defensive position west-northwest of Khe Sanh Combat Base was attacked by NVA.

Roger was from Somerset, Pennsylvania and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at Casebeer Cemetery, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. His name is etched on

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 68.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



**March 26, 1971**  
**Jay John Fishbeck**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province - Khe Sanh  
Combat Base

Jay John Fishbeck arrived in Vietnam in August of 1970. He served with HHC, 3/187th as a Tactical Wire Operations Specialist. Jay was killed in action on March 26, 1971 due to NVA mortar fire onto Khe Sanh Airfield.

Jay was from Coral Gables, Florida and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at Barracks National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel

4W, Line 79.

David Redmond (HHC, S4 Shop, 3/187th, RVN 70-71) recalls when his friend lost his life, Jay was hooking up a sling load to the bottom of a Chinook when a mortar rounds hit the airstrip.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



**March 29, 1971**  
**Russell Leland**  
**Clay**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam Son  
719 – Quang Tri  
Province

Russell Leland Clay arrived in Vietnam in July of 1970. He initially served with Alpha Company, 3/187th but eventually moved to Echo Company - Recon. Russell and another Recon soldier were killed in action on March 29, 1971 when the LZ they were at was attacked by NVA.

Russel was from Los Angeles, California and was eighteen years of age. He is buried at

Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, California. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 91.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**March 1971**



**March 29,  
1971  
Crawford  
Henry Traver**

Operation Dewey  
Canyon II/Lam  
Son 719 – Quang  
Tri Province

Crawford Henry  
Traver arrived in  
Vietnam in  
November of  
1970. He served  
with Echo  
Company - Recon,  
3/187th.  
Crawford and  
another Recon  
soldier were killed  
in action on  
March 29, 1971  
when the LZ they  
were at was  
attacked by NVA.

Crawford was  
from Montrose,  
Michigan and was  
twenty years of  
age. He is buried

at Flint Memorial Park, Mount Morris, Michigan. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 93.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...





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# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**April 1971**



Melvin Carter Wheeler Jr - Delta Company - April 4, 1971

**April 4, 1971  
Melvin Carter  
Wheeler Jr.**

Operation  
Dewey Canyon  
II/Lam Son 719 –  
Quang Tri  
Province

Melvin Carter  
Wheeler Jr  
arrived in  
Vietnam in  
October of  
1970. He served  
with Delta  
Company,  
3/187th. Melvin  
was killed in  
action on April  
4, 1971 due to  
accident  
involving an  
explosive  
device.

Melvin was from Carrollton, Illinois and was twenty-two years of age. He is buried at Carter Cemetery, Carrollton, Illinois. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 4W, Line 107.

SPEAK THEIR NAMES...



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**May 1971**



**May 15,  
1971  
Lawrence  
Russell  
Dance**

Operation  
Jefferson Glen -  
Thua Thien  
Province

Lawrence  
Russell Dance  
arrived in  
Vietnam in  
August of 1970.  
He served with  
Delta Company,  
3/187th.

Lawrence was  
wounded in  
action on May  
9, 1971 due to  
booby-trap  
while on a  
combat

operation. He succumbed to his wounds on May 15, 1971.

Lawrence was from Chester, Virginia and was twenty-four years of age. He is buried at City Point National Cemetery in Hopewell, Virginia. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 35.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**May 1971**



**May 19, 1971**  
**Richard Lordy**  
**Barbee**

Operation  
Jefferson Glen -  
Thua Thien  
Province

Richard Lordy Barbee arrived in Vietnam in July of 1970. He served with Delta Company, 3/187th. Richard was wounded in action on May 14, 1971 during a combat operation when a mine detonated. He was evacuated to a military hospital but succumbed to his wounds on May 19, 1971.

Richard was from Salinas California and was twenty-two years of age. He is buried at Queen of Heaven

Cemetery, Prunedale, California. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 40.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**May 1971**



**May 28, 1971**  
**Donald Robert**  
**Mathis**

Operation  
Jefferson Glen -  
Thua Thien  
Province

Donald Robert Mathis arrived in Vietnam in September of 1970. He served with Alpha Company, 3/187th. Donald was killed in action on May 28, 1971 during a combat operation when a booby-trap detonated.

Donald was from Harriman, Tennessee and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at Mossy Grove Church Cemetery, Morgan County, Tennessee. His name is etched on

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 57.

SPEAK THEIR NAMES...



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## June 1971



Jose Angel Sanchez - Echo Co/Recon Platoon - June 3, 1971

**June 3, 1971**

**Jose Angel Sanchez**

Operation Jefferson  
Glen - Thua Thien  
Province

Jose Angel Sanchez arrived in Vietnam in January 1971. He served with Echo Company, Recon Platoon. Jose was killed in action on June 3, 1971 during a combat operation.

Jose was from Bakersfield, California and was twenty years of age. He is buried at Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, California. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 65.



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**June 1971**



**June 9, 1971**

**Michael Moran  
Dalton**

Operation Jefferson  
Glen – Thua Thien  
Province

Michael Moran Dalton arrived in Vietnam in January of 1971. He served with Delta Company, 3/187th. Michael was killed in action on June 9, 1971 when a booby-trap detonated during a combat operation.

Michael was from Pawtucket, Rhode Island and was twenty-four years of age. He is buried at Mount Saint Mary's Cemetery, Pawtucket, Rhode Island. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 71.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**June 1971**



**June 15, 1971**

**Sylvester C  
Martinez**

Operation  
Jefferson Glen –  
Thua Thien  
Province

Sylvester  
Martinez arrived  
in Vietnam in  
September of  
1970. He served  
with Delta  
Company,  
3/187th. Sylvester  
was wounded in  
action on June 9,  
1971 during a  
combat operation  
when a booby-  
trap detonated.  
He was  
medevac'd from  
the field and was  
admitted to a

military hospital where he succumbed to his wounds on June 15, 1971.

Sylvester was from Waxahachie, Texas and was twenty years of age. He is buried at Tuleta Cemetery, Tuleta, Texas. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 77.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

**June 1971**



**June 9, 1971**

**Stephen  
Knight  
Masden**

Operation  
Jefferson Glen –  
Thua Thien  
Province

Stephen Knight  
Masden arrived  
in Vietnam in  
November of  
1970. He served  
with Delta  
Company,  
3/187<sup>th</sup>. Stephen  
was killed in  
action on June 9,  
1971 during a  
combat  
operation when  
a booby-trap  
detonated.

Stephen was  
from Kansas  
City, Missouri  
and was twenty-  
one years of age.  
He is buried at

Mount Moriah Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 70.

SPEAK THEIR NAMES...



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# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## August 1971



**August 14,  
1971  
Floyd  
William  
Kotewa Jr**

Cam Ranh Bay  
Security  
Mission –  
Khanh Hoa  
Province

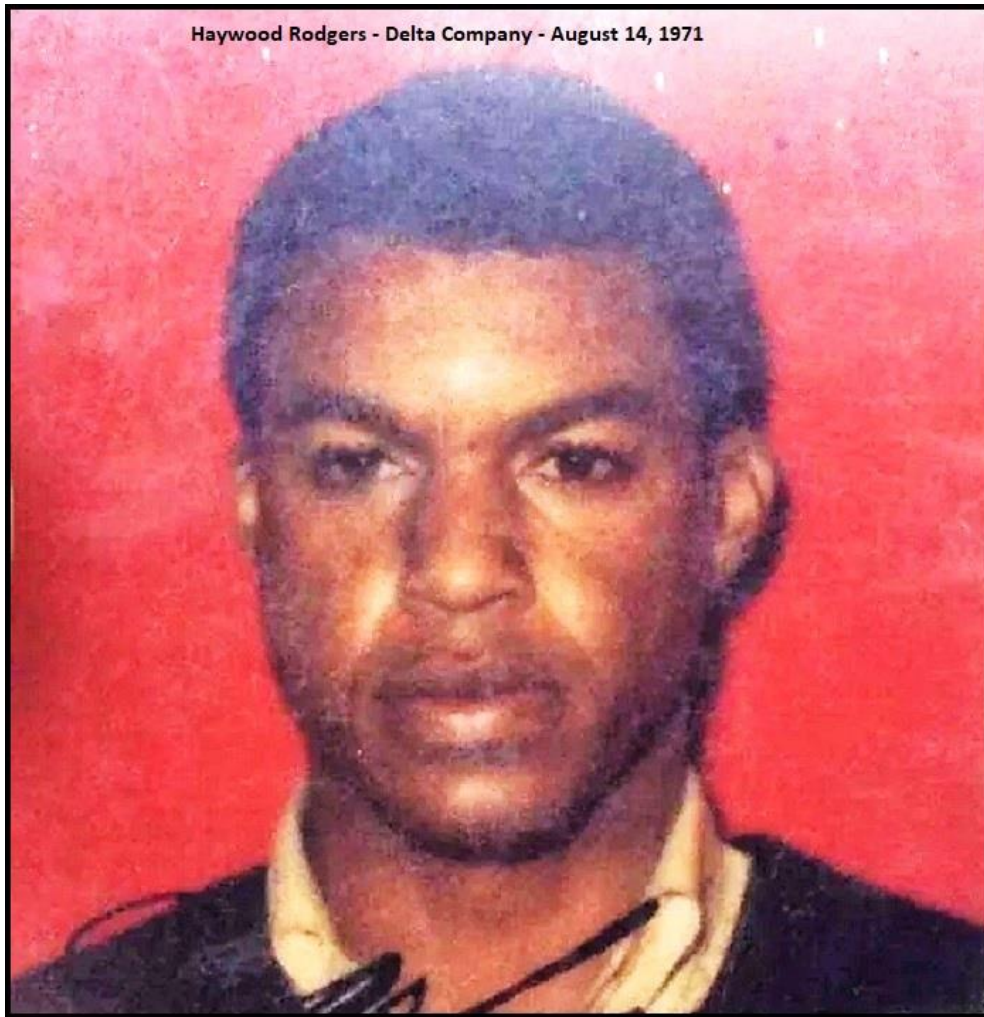
Floyd William  
Kotewa Jr  
arrived in  
Vietnam in  
September of  
1970. He  
served with  
Delta Company,  
3/187<sup>th</sup>. Floyd  
and another  
Delta Company  
soldier were

killed in action on August 14, 1971 when their night defensive position came under attack and was accidentally hit by friendly air support.

Floyd was from Bay City, Michigan and was nineteen years of age. He is buried at ST Patrick Cemetery, Bay City, Michigan. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 131.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## August 1971



**August 14,  
1971  
Haywood  
Rodgers**

Cam Ranh Bay  
Security Mission -  
Khanh Hoa  
Province

Haywood Rodgers arrived in Vietnam in July of 1971. He served with Delta Company, 3/187th. Haywood and another Delta Company soldier were killed in action on August 14, 1971 when their night defensive position came under attack and was hit by friendly air

support.

Haywood was from Siler City, North Carolina and was twenty-five years of age. He is buried at Evans Chapel AME Church Cemetery, Pittsboro, North Carolina. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 3W, Line 131.

SPEAK THEIR NAMES...





SPEAK THEIR NAMES...



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## October 1971



**October 14,  
1971  
Irving John  
Brown Jr**

Operation Jefferson  
Glen - Thua Thien  
Province

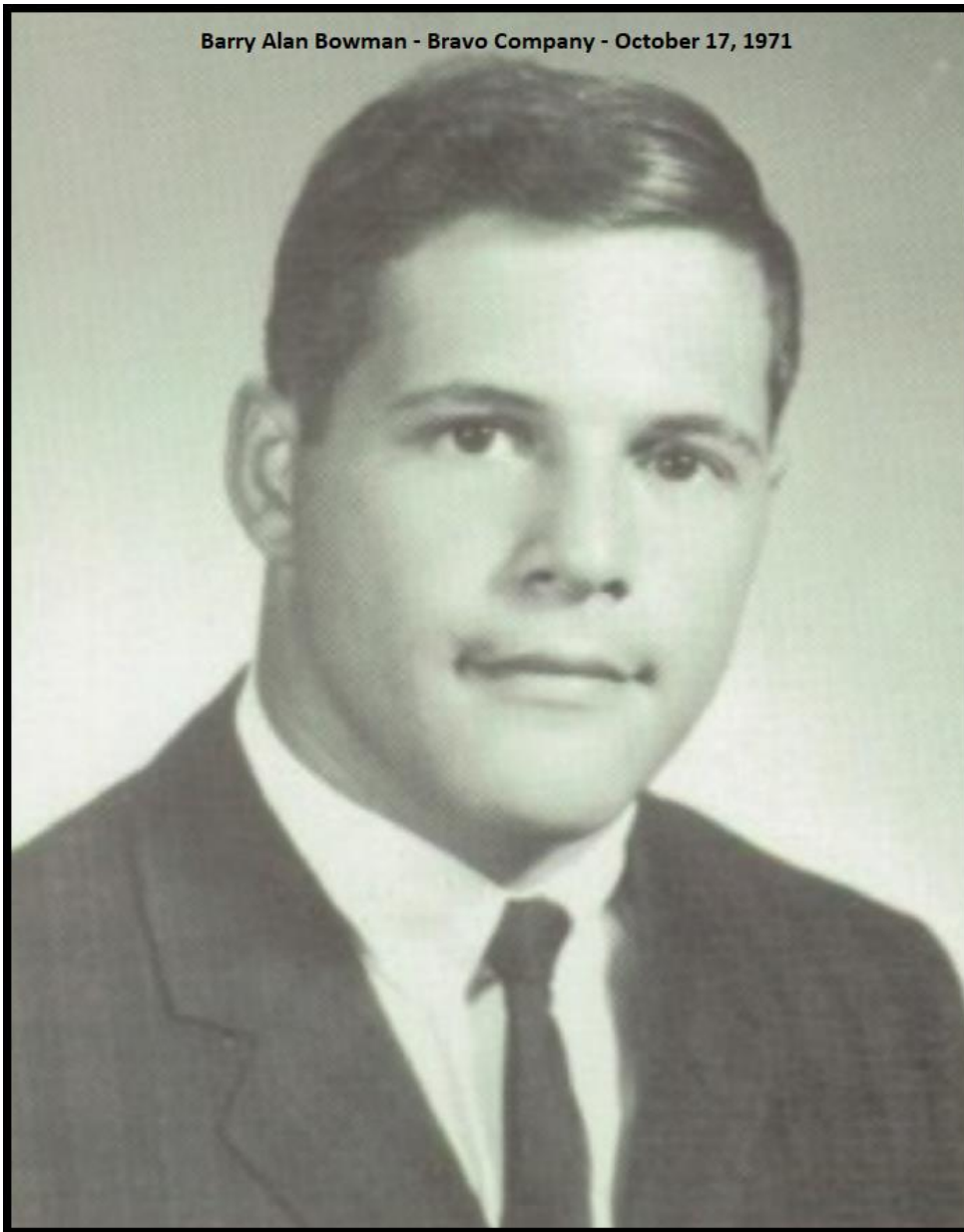
Irving John Brown Jr, arrived in Vietnam in November of 1970. He served with Echo Company, 3/187th. Irving was wounded in action on an unknown date when his night defensive position came under attack. He was medevac'd from the field and succumbed to his wounds on October 14, 1971.

Irving was from Vacherie, Louisiana and was twenty-one years of age. He is buried at First Baptist Church Cemetery, Vacherie, Louisiana. His name

is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 2W, Line 39.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## October 1971



**October 17,  
1971**

**Barry Alan  
Bowman**

Operation  
Jefferson Glen -  
Thua Thien  
Province

CPT Barry Alan  
Bowman arrived in  
Vietnam in August  
of 1970. He served  
with Bravo  
Company as  
Company  
Commander at the  
time of his death.  
Barry was killed in  
action on October  
17, 1971 when a  
booby-trap  
detonated during a  
combat operation.

Barry was from  
Medford, Oregon  
and was twenty-  
two years of age.  
He is buried at San  
Francisco National

Cemetery, California. His name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 2W, Line 40.

Barry was the last Rakkasan to lose his life in the Republic of Vietnam.

# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## Remembrances



# SPEAK THEIR NAMES...

## Remembrances



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*Photos and information obtained from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, The Virtual Wall, Honorstates.org, The Coffelt Database and the Veterans who served. The Steel Thread Project is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization. Speak Their Names was compiled for research, educational and memorial purposes only – not for resale, reproduction of commercial use.*

*Please email The Steel Thread Project at [steelthread187@hotmail.com](mailto:steelthread187@hotmail.com) if you have any questions, concerns or see any errors or omissions in the compiled information.*

*Please note that the Speak Their Names compilation does not include soldiers who served with the 3/187<sup>th</sup> at one point in time in the Republic of Vietnam, were transferred to other units and subsequently lost their lives.*

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