

Vietnam War: Humboldt County Remembers fallen soldiers: Part 3
December 28, 2013 | Times-Standard (Eureka, CA)

At least 52 men who called Humboldt County home were killed in the Vietnam War, a loss that continues to reverberate to this day. In service to their country, they left behind grieving parents and widows, friends and teachers, schools and communities that would never be the same.

Last month, the Times-Standard joined an ongoing effort to put a face and a story to each of the 58,195 on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., asking readers to submit photos and remembrances of their friends, family and loved ones. The response has been overwhelming, but there's a bit more work to do, as photographs are still needed for nine local veterans. Two additional photos were located on Friday.

This is the third in a four-part series looking at each of the 42 veterans whose pictures have been posted and sharing some of the memories offered by the community. The remembrances include tales of heroism, loss and gratitude, and combine to tell the story of a generation and a community forever changed by war.



Richard J. Martin -- 1947-1968 -- Carlotta

"Rich, the first time we met we were fast friends, you from California , me from Missouri. You a surfer dude, me a Midwesterner. We were in the same barracks. In our free time, we would talk of our lives and how we wanted them to go. ... Not a day goes by that I don't think of you, Richard. May you rest in peace and I am glad our lives passed each other for I am glad to have known you." -- Old Buddy, as posted on the Wall of Faces



James C. McGlasson -- 1950-1969 -- Arcata

"He had attended Arcata High School before entering the Marines on Feb. 14, 1967. While at Arcata High he was on the junior varsity and varsity basketball team." -- From his obituary

James McGlasson served in the Marine Corps and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Arcata.



Marvin E. McLelland -- 1947-1968 -- Arcata

"On the morning of May 12, 1968, while conducting a mine sweep near the platoon combat base, Corporal McLelland was seriously wounded when he stepped on an enemy mine, heard it trip, and stayed on it until others with him were able to get out of the danger area. When he stepped off of the mine it blew. Despite his painful wounds, his silent courage served as an inspiration to all who observed, encouraging them to continue the vital sweep for the safety of others. Corporal McLelland's exception leadership, professional knowledge and extreme courage and devotion to duty throughout were contributing factors in the accomplishment of his unit's mission and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. Corporal McLelland is authorized to wear the Combat 'V' and received the Purple Heart." -- Leonard McLelland, as posted on the Wall of Faces

Marvin McLelland served in the Marine Corps and is buried at Custer National Cemetery in Big Horn County , Mont.



Kelly S. Morris -- 1949-1969 -- Arcata

"I roomed with Kelly at Fort Bragg after his first tour. We both were buck sergeants who spent a year in Vietnam in the airborne infantry. We became best of friends. Not enjoying the spit and polish of a stateside airborne unit, he went back for a second tour in June of 1969. Falling out for inspection at 4:30 a.m. gets old in a hurry after coming back from a year in the field. I learned a lot from Kelly in the six months or so we spent at Bragg. I wish he hadn't decided to go back. He is missed and will always be remembered." -- Rick Jakus, as posted on the Wall of Faces

Kelly Morris served in the Army and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Arcata.

Lyle W. Morris -- 1947-1968 -- Ferndale

"He was an outdoors person -- he loved hunting and fishing and all kinds of sports, and excelled in track in high school. He was a pretty popular kid, had a lot of friends and always had a string of girls following him, that's for sure. He was shy, but very friendly. When it came to humor, he always had a good joke and things like that. He liked his fancy cars. He had a brand new GTO. He wasn't one to race and hot rod around, but he liked them fixed up nice and all spiced up. The sad part was that he kept putting off getting married because he thought he was getting drafted. Finally, he got married and he wasn't married a few days before he got his draft notice and was sent off." -- Larry Morris

Lyle Morris served in the Army and is buried at Ferndale Cemetery.

Harold B. Muller -- 1947-1968 -- McKinleyville

"For years I never knew Harold's real name. He was introduced to me as 'Chief.' I mean no disrespect by calling him Chief, it was who he was to us men in Charlie Company. Chief was one of the first men I met when I went to the field. ... He didn't have to, but he took me under his leadership and showed me the ropes. ... We became close friends. ... I was on R&R when Chief was killed. When I got back from R&R and was told of his death it struck me hard. It was like someone punched me in the gut. Of all the guys we lost, I can still see his face. He will forever be 22 years old to me. I miss him to this day." -- John Rolfe, as posted on the Wall of Faces

Harold Muller served in the Army and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Arcata.

Victor L. Paine -- 1946-1966 -- South Fork

"My brother Victor Paine showed early promise as a reporter and editor on his school paper at South Fork High in Miranda. He followed his two older brothers into the Marine Corps and, with an MOS (military occupational specialty) of 4312: Press Information Man, packed a typewriter into combat in Vietnam. He had a byline in the Stars and Stripes, Pacific and was headed for a great career in journalism. It all ended July 7, 1966. Damn you Brother, why didn't you come home! Semper Fidelis, Dennis Paine

Victor Paine served in the Marine Corps and is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. His home of record is listed as Mendocino County, but Victor Paine was born in Scotia and attended South Fork High School prior to joining the Marine Corps.

Daniel A. Patterson -- 1944-1967 -- Eureka

He graduated from Eureka High School in 1962, loved Corvettes and was in auto shop.

Daniel A. Patterson served in the Marine Corps. His burial site could not be confirmed.

Douglas F. Quinn -- 1946 - 1966 -- Eureka

"I was a very close friend of Doug in Eureka. We grew up together, becoming friends in the fifth grade. While attending college, Doug decided to join the Marines and was later killed. Doug's death brought home the reality of the war, as I think his death was the first for our community. Doug was a quiet, polite person that was respected by many. He is still in my thoughts and prayers." -- Kenneth Smith, as posted on the Wall of Faces

Douglas Quinn served in Marine Corps and is buried at Ocean View Cemetery in Eureka.

Gary W. Reed -- 1948-1969 -- Eureka

"Our dads were best buddies ... they're both gone now. You and I went into the Army at the same time, Fort Lewis, Wash. You helped me keep my sanity together through basic. We went our separate ways after that ... both destined for 'Nam. I thought about you often, not knowing where you were or how you were doing. Then ... "BAM," I get the news. Sorry you had to leave us so young, my friend. I miss you still. I remember your GTO and going hunting with you. I want you to know that people still think of you and still love you. You were a good one. Rest easy my friend." -- Roger Cunningham, as posted on the Wall of Faces

Gary Reed served in the Army and is buried at Sunset Memorial Cemetery in Eureka.

Larry T. Ross -- 1948-1969 -- Arcata

"Memories raced through my mind as I stood with my parents, Evert and Iona Ross, as they received the Bronze Star for my brother, Larry Ross, at the Presidio in San Francisco. I was the oldest and Larry the youngest, both of us having their unique place in a family. Larry graduated from high school in 1967 and enlisted in the Army in 1968." -- Rita Marie Rogers

Larry Ross served in the Army and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Arcata.

On the web:

For more information about the Wall of Faces project, visit www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/

How to help:

If you have photographs of any of the listed Humboldt County veterans or other information about them, or want to volunteer to help the effort in other ways, email Janna Hoehn at mauifloralelegance@gmail.com. If you don't have Internet access but want to help, contact Times-Standard Editor Kimberly Wear at 441-0520.

Photographs are still needed for the following veterans:

George D. Birdsell: 1927-1966 -- Carlotta

Howard M. Gifford: 1934-1968 -- Ferndale

Frank E. Headley IV: 1945-1968 -- Eureka

Alan E. Hendrickson: 1935-1967 -- Arcata

Robert G. Olson: 1948-1968 -- Englewood

Nels V Rosenlund II: 1944-1969 -- Arcata

Philip D. Sharp: 1940-1971 -- Fortuna

Theodore R. Vance: 1946-1967 -- Rio Dell*

James C. Ward: 1947-1971 -- McKinleyville

*Vance's home of record is listed as Yoncalla, Ore., but he attended Fortuna High School and lived in Rio Dell prior to joining the Army. He is buried in Ocean View Cemetery in Eureka.

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Note: I cannot find the other 3 parts to this series, additionally I am leaving the Newspaper contact information with this article. The link 'Wall of Faces' is still viable.

File Created: 23 May 2023

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