

The Fallen

"they shall not be forgotten"

17 SOLDIERS FROM MIFFLIN COUNTY WHO WERE KILLED IN VIETNAM

James Malcolm Bagshaw

SP5 - ARMY

07/04/46 - 09/02/67



Jim was born in Huntingdon, PA, the son of the late Wilbur H. Bagshaw and Ida B. Bagshaw. He was a member of the St. Stevens Lutheran Church in McAlevy's Fort. He graduated from the Huntingdon High School in 1965 where he was active in gymnastics. He met his future wife, Sharon Peters, in Stone Valley and following their marriage, they took up housekeeping in Belleville. Three months after they were married, Jim joined the service in December of 1965. At the time he was employed by the Ka-Vee Ice Cream Company. Jim volunteered for duty in Vietnam and was transferred with the 58th Field Depot to Pleiku, Vietnam in March of 1967. He remained there until August when he was sent to Qai Nhon. It was while he was there that he was killed by small arms fire when the convoy in which he was riding came under attack by hostile forces. Surviving at the time were his wife, mother, father and six brothers. James was 21 years old. He is remembered on panel #25E line #80.

Harold Elmer Burkett

HM3 - NAVY

02/17/38 - 01/31/66

Harold was born in Leesburg, Florida, the son of Laura B. Burkett, of Florida, and John F. Burkett, of Lewistown, PA. Harold attended Chief Logan High School when he lived in Mifflin County for a few years. He enlisted in the Navy January 2, 1957 and the service was his whole life. He was killed as the result of enemy action on January 31, 1966 while helping to repulse a mortar attack on the Marine Air Force Base, in Da Nang. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal by the Navy, Vietnam Military Merit Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. Harold was survived by his parents, his stepmother Louise, two sisters (J. Nancy and W. Ann) of NYC, six half-brothers and sisters (Ann Louise Royer, of Lewistown, PA, and Andrew, Paul, Robert, Carol and Martha Burkett, who were then of Hollidaysburg, PA). Harold was 27 years old. He is remembered on panel # 4E line #122.



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Guy Wesley "Mick" Clinger, Jr.

SP4 - ARMY

11/25/45 - 06/17/67

Guy Wesley "Mick" Clinger, Jr. was born in Maitland, PA the son of Guy W. Sr. and Gladys (Stein) Clinger. He attended Chief Logan High School and Somerset High School graduating in 1964. He was active in basketball. Prior to entering the service he worked for FMC Tire Fabric, in Lewistown, PA. Mick was killed by a land mine while out on a search and patrol mission. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. At the time he was survived by his mother, father, two sisters (Vicki and Sue) and a daughter named Heidi. Mick was 21 years old. He is remembered on panel #21E line #118.

Gregory Scott "Frog" Copenhaver

LCPL Marine Corps

7/21/55 - 5/15/75

Gregory Copenhaver was born in McClure, PA, the son of Lewis and Mary Copenhaver. His parents separated when he was young and his mother moved to Maryland, where he was raised. Gregory was nicknamed Frog by friends. He loved motorcycles and dreamed of a military career. He graduated from the Rising Sun High School in Port Deposit, MD, in 1974. He enlisted in the Marines while still in school.

When U.S. troops were pulled out of Southeast Asia in early 1975, Vietnamese communist troops began capturing one city after another. In Cambodia, communist Khmer Rouge had captured the capital city of Phnom Penh on April 17. The last Americans were evacuated from Saigon during "Option IV", with U.S. Ambassador Martin departing on April 29. The war, according to President Ford, "was finished."

On May 12, the U.S. merchant ship Mayaguez was seized by the Khmer Rouge in the Gulf of Siam about 60 miles from the Cambodian coastline. The ship, owned by Sea-Land Corporation, was en route to Thailand from Hong Kong, carrying a non-arms cargo for military bases in Thailand. The ship's captain had steered the ship within the boundaries of international waters, but the Cambodians had recently claimed territorial waters 90 miles from the coast of Cambodia. The thirty-nine seamen aboard were taken prisoner. President Ford ordered a rescue mission. Three days after the Mayaguez seizure, the Air Force dispatched six helicopters to the island. One of the helicopters came under heavy enemy fire and crashed into the surf with 26 men on board. Thirteen of the men were rescued at sea, leaving Copenhaver and 12 other service members unaccounted-for from the crash. Ten



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months after enlisting with a recruiter at the Rising Sun High School, the 19-year old Marine rifleman was killed when his helicopter plunged into the Gulf of Thailand on May 15, 1975. He was listed as missing in action until his remains were identified through DNA testing on May 12, 2000.

Although Copenhaver's body was identified in 2000, the Memorial Committee only recently found out that his body was found and also found out that Copenhaver was originally from Mifflin County. There was no room on the granite stones to add another soldier. It was therefore decided to order another, smaller granite stone to put Copenhaver's name on. There is also room on this stone in case another soldier's body is found.

He is remembered on panel 1W, line 120.

John Howard Guthridge CAPT. - ARMY 12/19/34 - 08/29/69

John was born in Lewistown, PA, the son of Clifford and Evelyn Guthridge. He graduated from Lewistown High School in 1953. A year or two after he graduated, he joined the Army. Then on January 20, 1956, he married Julia Bonson. John and Julia had two children, Douglas and Kristi. "He was an awesome man and a loving husband and father", says his daughter, Kristi. He put his family above and beyond himself. He enjoyed bowling and riding bicycles with his family. John was in the 1st Calvary. He served 14 years as Field Commander and was very dedicated to the service. He was making a career of it. He died while on combat maneuvers. John was 34 years old. He is remembered on panel #1W line #7.



William Clayton Hackett SSGT - USMC 01/21/41 - 06/27/69

William "Bill" was born in Burnham, PA, the son of Clayton W. and Hazel M. Hackett. He was a member of the Church of the Brethren in both Burnham and Maitland, and attended the Chief Logan High School prior to his enlistment. He had been in the Marines for more than eleven years, serving with the 3rd Marine Division, in Korea and on his second tour of duty in Vietnam, at the time of his death. His unit had just returned from a mission and was back into its bunker when it was blown up by enemy mortar, killing him and his comrades instantly. Surviving at the time was his mother, father and two sisters. Bill was 28 years old. He is remembered on panel #21W line #21.



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Dennis Guy Harmon

PFC - ARMY

08/26/44 - 04/14/66



Dennis was born in Belleville, PA, the son of J. Guy and Margaret (Donhey) Harmon. He was a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church. He attended the Kishacoquillas High School, graduating in 1962. Dennis was a great athlete and captain of baseball, basketball and soccer teams. He enlisted in the Army August, 1965 and was sent to Vietnam in April, 1966. He was in the Military Police and was assigned to the 66th Military Police Company. Dennis was making an attempt to toss a live grenade off board the ship, and away from other soldiers, when it blew up, killing him instantly. He posthumously received the Purple Heart. He was the first casualty in Mifflin County from the Vietnam War. Surviving at the time was his mother, father, two sisters, and four brothers. Dennis was 21 years old. He is remembered on panel #6E line #112.

Joseph Lester Hockenberry

PSG - ARMY

10/17/33-4/2/67

Joseph was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, and attended school in Duncannon.

His father died when Joe was 13, and the state removed him and his two brothers from the family, placing them on a farm. He subsequently ran away, left school at 17, and found a home in the United States Army, enlisting on February 5, 1951. He married a Joan Kahler of Yeagertown and they had a daughter, Leslie, who was born in 1956.

They eventually divorced. He received his G.E.D. in 1953, after serving a year in the Korean War. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Sergeant Hockenberry's outstanding leadership and willingness to accept responsibilities were exemplary. His unique ability to utilize manpower and supplies and his cheerful yet vigorous approach to his many problems won him the respect and admiration of all with whom he associated. In the 1960s, he served two tours in Germany, where he wed Gisela, a German citizen. On June 21, 1966, Platoon Sergeant Hockenberry was sent to

Vietnam. He was serving with B Troop, 1st Squad, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division on Sunday, April 2, 1967, when he was killed in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, by enemy small arms fire. At the age of 33, this veteran of two wars was laid to rest with full military honors in Evergreen Methodist Cemetery in Duncannon. Hockenberry was survived by his wife, Gisela; a daughter, Leslie; mother, Mabel; five sisters; two brothers; and two stepsisters. Joseph's mother died three years to the day Joe died. Mother, father and son now rest together.



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Platoon Sergeant Joseph L. Hockenberry was awarded a posthumous Bronze Star for heroism, the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm from the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. These honors are proudly displayed on his daughter's memorial website. Joseph Hockenberry's youngest grandson posted this message on the Virtual wall website when he was 12: "...as I look at your flag sitting on our mantel I wonder what you were like."

William Foster "Tink" Hook, Jr.
PFC ARMY
07/11/49 - 08/01/68

William "Tink" Hook, Jr., the son of William Foster Hook, Sr. and Delores Pauline Shively, was a rebel growing up, but all the kids loved him. He attended Chief Logan High School and was 16 when he joined the Army. His unit was HHC, 1st BN, 28th Infantry, 1st Inf. Div. and he was stationed at Bien Hoa Province in South Vietnam. He was on Guard duty when he was found dead the next morning from double pneumonia. Although he wasn't killed over in Vietnam, he died serving his country. He is remembered on panel #50W line 46.



Carl Alvin Jones
SP4 - ARMY
10/12/48 - 01/01/69

The son of John F. and Romaine L. Jones, Carl Alvin Jones lived at 107 Fifth Avenue, Burnham, until age 8 before the family moved to Shindle. The location of this monument is very meaningful to the Jones family especially since Carl was born in a home nearby. Carl attended Freedom Elementary and Decatur Elementary Schools. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Lewistown and had served as president of the Youth Fellowship. After graduating from Chief Logan High School in 1966, he was employed as an Optical Technician for Berks Optical Company in Lewistown.



Carl entered the Army on February 21, 1968 and attended boot camp in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Upon completion of basic training, he went to Vietnam on July 23, 1968. He had been serving in Chu Lai, Vietnam in F Troop, 17th Cavalry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Carl was track commander of an M113 armored personnel carrier when he was killed while trying to unjam loaded ammunition in a 106 recoilless rifle.

Carl was 20 years old when he died on New Year's Day in 1969. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force. At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, three sisters, two brothers-in-law, two nieces, and one grandmother. He is remembered on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, panel #35W line #16.

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Russell Edward Kephart

SGT - ARMY

02/22/49 - 02/04/68

Russell was born in Lewistown, PA, the son of Glenn D. and Mildred M. Kephart. He attended the Lewistown High School in the Vocational Department and was active in wrestling. He was a member of The Salvation Army Church of Lewistown, where he was a Junior Soldier. Russell enlisted in the Army in November 1966 and was sent to Vietnam May 1967. He was on a search mission and came under enemy fire. Seeing two buddies wounded, he threw himself over them to protect them and was killed instantly. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze and Silver Star and the Purple Heart. At the time he was survived by his mother, father, two sisters and four brothers. Russell was 18 years old. He is remembered on panel #37E line #24.



Sidney George "Skip" Kreisher

PFC - USMC

07/13/47 - 04/04/67



**SIDNEY GEORGE
KREISHER**

Sidney "Skip" was born in Lewistown, PA, the son of G. Leroy and Annetta M. (Ulsh) Kreisher. He was a member of the First Baptist Church. He graduated from Lewistown High School in 1965 where he was a manager for the football team, played basketball and was also an active swimmer. Skip enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on May 11, 1966, and completed his recruit training at Parris Island November 4. He left the U.S. on February 14 for Vietnam. He was assigned to L Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division near Da Nang. He wrote his parents that he was assigned as "point man" for his squad. While in training he had qualified as marksman on the rifle range. His last message was dated March 28 saying he was leaving for Chu Lai on a "Seek and Destroy" patrol. He was point man on a night patrol, near Chi Lai, and was instantly killed when a land mine detonated. He had been in Vietnam only seven weeks. He was survived by his mother and father. He became engaged on Valentine's Day (the day he left) to a Christie Freed. Sidney was 19 years old. He is remembered on panel #17E line #99.

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William Frank Rocco

SFC - ARMY

12/03/32 - 03/23/69

William was born in Burnham, PA, the son of Charles and Verna Rocco. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lewistown. He graduated from the Lewistown High School in 1950, where he was active in soccer. William was serving with the 101st Airborne Division when the chopper he was in was shot down by hostile fire. At the time he was survived by his wife, Arretta J., his daughter, Susan, mother, father and two sisters. William was 36 years old. He is remembered on panel #26W line #35.



Leroy Henry Romig

PFC ARMY

06/08/45 - 12/11/68



Leroy Romig was born in Lewistown, PA, the son of Bruce and Stella Romig. He had 3 sisters and 2 brothers, being next to the youngest. He attended West Snyder High School. He quit school and worked for a lumber company. He rented a farm and enjoyed farmwork on his own farm, and also liked helping other local farmers. He was an avid hunter, also, and enjoyed logging work. He married Joyce Franklin before entering the service. He joined the Army Feb. 21, 1968. He was an Indirect Fire Infantryman and served in Unit A Co. 2nd Bn. 12th Infantry 25th Inf. Div., USARV. He was killed in action from small arms fire while serving in Hua Nghia, South Vietnam. He received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Silver Star, Sharp Shooter Rifle Combat Infantry, Badge and Occupation of Vietnamese. Leroy was 23 years old. He is remembered on panel W36 line 6.

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Robert Henry Royer

SP4 - ARMY

06/21/50 - 05/31/71

Robert was born in Lewistown PA, the son of Robert E. and Betty B. Royer. He attended Chief Logan High School and graduated in 1968. He entered the service in February, 1969 and as a tank commander assigned with the Americal Division, 1st Cavalry and had served in Vietnam since July, 1970. He was killed when the tank in which he was riding struck a land mine, near Phu Bai. Robert was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Surviving at the time were his mother, father, two sisters, three brothers and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Ruth Baumgardner. Robert was 20 years old. He is remembered on panel #3W line #23.



Ronald Ray Walls

SSGT - ARMY

12/26/38 - 09/26/68

Ronald was born in Lewistown, PA, the son of Gerald F. and Marjorie C. Walls. He attended the Brethren Church of Parkview. Ronald attended Chief Logan High School, enlisting in the service before his graduation in 1962. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. During his first tour of duty, he was wounded and received the Purple Heart Award.

He was on his second tour when during a mission the vehicle he was riding in struck a land mine. He died as a result of the injuries he sustained. Surviving at the time were his mother, father, his son, his step-son and one brother. Ronald was 29 years old. He is remembered on panel #42W line #24.



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Roger David Zeigler
CPL - ARMY
02/22/47 - 04/27/68

Roger was born in Lewistown, PA, the son of the late James M. Zeigler and Anna E. Zeigler. He was one of four children. He graduated from Sacred Heart School (8th grade) in 1961 and from Chief Logan High School in 1965, where he participated in football, basketball, and track. He attended Lock Haven College before being drafted. He served as a rifleman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 22 Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. During a large North Vietnamese assault at Chu Moor Hill, west of Kontum, Roger was providing cover fire for his comrades who were evacuating the wounded when he was killed by enemy fire. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with "V", and the Purple Heart. Surviving at the time were his mother, father, one sister and two brothers. Roger was 21 years old. He is remembered on panel #52E line #32.



The Vietnam Fallen from Juniata County, Pennsylvania

PFC Walter L Goshorn -Killed in Action

U. S. Army 1966-1967 Vietnam
DOB: 6/9/1947
DOD: 1/2/1967
101st Airborne Div, 2nd Bat, 502nd
Infantry, C Company
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, VVM Wall,
Panel 13e, Line 108
Kon Tum, Kon Tum, Vietnam
National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam
Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal
Purple Heart



Sgt Raymond Dale Weiand- Killed in Action

U. S. Army 1960-1966 Vietnam
DOB: 6/6/1939
DOD: 2/20/1966
1st Cav Division, 2nd Battalion, 5th
Cavalry, B Company, Binh Dinh, South
Vietnam
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, VVM Wall,
Panel 05e, Line 57
Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple
Heart
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Service Medal, The Vietnam
Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Gallantry
Cross Unit Citation



**PFC Edwin Cloyd Hockenberry -Killed
In Action**

U.S.Army 1968-1969 Vietnam
DOB: 05/18/1948
DOD: 08/18/1969
E CO, 4TH BN, 31ST INFANTRY, 196TH
INFANTRY BDE
AMERICAL DIV, USARV
Hiep Duc, South Vietnam, Quang Tin
Province
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Panel 19w,
Line 61
Combat Infantryman Badge, National
Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service
Medal, The Vietnam Campaign Medal,
Purple Heart



**2LT Harold Andrew Ford-Killed in
Action**

U.S. Army 1966-1967 Vietnam
DOB: 7/10/1943
DOD: 5/22/1967
A CO, 3RD BN, 12TH INFANTRY, 4TH INF
DIV
Pleiku Province, South Vietnam
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall, Panel
20E Line 83
Purple Heart



**Ervin Howard Williamson-Killed in
Action**

Date of Birth: Nov. 28, 1948 Lewistown,
Mifflin County Pennsylvania, USA
Date of Death: May 10, 1969 Quang Ngai
Quang Ngai, Vietnam
Service: U. S. Army
Rank: Corporal
Unit: 2ND PLT, A CO, 4TH BN, 3RD
INFANTRY, 11TH INFANTRY BDE,
AMERICAL DIV, USARV
Position on the Wall: Panel W25 Line 45



