



John Winslow Lawrence, Jr. Co A-2

Jack stepped from the gay life of college frats into the frenzy of Beast Barracks with true cosmopolitan ease. Since academics and the T.D. offered not great obstacles, he sought the challenges of the Ski Team and wild choir trips. A friend of the Corps, Jack's genuine smile and warm personality will always be welcome in any group.

Born – 22 Jan 1938, New Hampshire.

To USMA – Came from Farmington, NH. Appointed by New Hampshire 1st. Nickname – “Jack”.

Died – 16 Sep 1971 (age 33) killed-in-action (KIA) in Vietnam. Buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Farmington, NH.

Military Awards – 2 Silver Star Medals (second awarded posthumously).

Schooling – ROTC Instructor, University of Florida.

Family - Wife – Barbara Cullen Lawrence (10 years, passed away 20 Dec 2002) – 2 children (Stephanie and Michael) – grandchildren?

Contact – Unknown.

Jack served on active duty in the Army (Artillery) for 10 years until his untimely death in 1971, with the rank of Major. His first assignment was in the Panama Canal Zone. He then served at Ft. Sill (Artillery Advanced Course), Vietnam (first tour - S-5, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division), Gainesville, FL (Instructor, ROTC Program, University of Florida), Vietnam (second tour - Advisory Team 91 in Binh Duong Province).

On 16 September 1971, Jack received a call from a member of a group accompanying the District S-1 on the way to a meeting at Binh Duong Province Headquarters. The group had been ambushed, and the sole survivor was calling for help. Assembling available personnel, Jack formed a composite unit and led them toward the ambush site. As the relief column moved to the aid of their beleaguered comrades, they too were ambushed. Jack was in the lead and was severely wounded in the initial exchange but succeeded in repulsing the initial VC assault before he fell mortally wounded. A warrior to the end, Jack's lead from the front style and his do or die commitment to his mission were so inspirational that his unit successfully broke out of their dire situation and joined other friendly forces.

Footnote from a Classmate – “The value of life is measured not only in years but also in the quality of service rendered. Jack was taken from his family and friends much too soon, but I cling to the idea that his loss was not without meaning. Jack understood that freedom is the sure possession of only those who have the courage to defend it. His sacrifice for the ideals in which he believed gave value to his life beyond measure. If a man has done his best, and Jack did, what else is there?”