



James John Roberts III Co K-1

Always having a great deal on his mind, Jim often times found it difficult to concentrate on the academic subjects in his curriculum. A lost "board fight" or two didn't lose the campaign, but it did save two good eyes for the Air Force, which will be proud to have him flying.

Born – 31 July 1938, New Jersey.

To USMA – Came from Hamilton AFB, CA.

Appointed by New Mexico Senator Chavez.

Nickname – "J.J."

Died – 11 Jan 1973 (age 34) at Newport Beach, CA.

Military burial at sea.

Military Awards – Bronze Star Medal (with V).

Schooling – Unknown.

Family - Wife – Susan M. Deal Roberts Tauer.

Contact – Susan Roberts Tauer. Address unknown, Phone unknown and Email Golfinsue@msn.com

J.J. served on active duty with the Army (Infantry) for 6 years, until his medical retirement in 1967, with the rank of Captain. His first assignment was with the 14th Infantry in Hawaii. He then served in Vietnam (Commander, B Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division). In 1967, after returning from Viet Nam, an accident in his sports car at Ft. Knox resulted in his medical retirement. Returning to California, J.J. began his journey down the long road toward his recovery, a goal not fully reached. J.J. passed away on 11 January 1973. Following funeral services at Newport Beach, CA, he received a military burial at sea.

With his death, the Vietnam War claimed another casualty. J.J.'s name was not carved on the wall of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., nor on the Class's memorial at West Point honoring the Classes of 1861 and 1961 who died in war. However, his death was directly attributable to battles fought in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966. His name deserves to be etched on an Honor Roll among those who gave their all for Duty, Honor, and Country! His decorations did not include a Purple Heart, but J.J. was deeply emotionally wounded in Vietnam. On his return, most could not see the change, but the war's effect was there.

Footnote – J.J.'s death left a great sadness and a deep void in the hearts of those he left behind - his beloved wife, Susan, his parents, Colonel (USAF) James J. and Rosella C. Roberts, his younger brother Douglas, and a long line of friends, including his Company K-1 classmates. Despite the sadness, it is impossible to recall J.J. without forming a smile. His USMA roommate captured his memory well - "...my memories of other classmates are in black and white, but J.J.'s are always in Technicolor." James J. Roberts brightened our lives and his memory continues to produce smiles, instead of tears - a true testament of his impact on our lives. We walk with you, J.J. - one step to the left, and one step behind! You are not forgotten! Rest in Peace!