



**James Michael Coyle Co G-1**

*If the Bachelor of Arts degree were given in June Week, Mike could certainly be a star man. Math, and science however, were his nemeses.*

*Convinced that the poop would be passed out in class, he consistently found the approved solution in his "brown boy." A solid foundation for the Army flag, Mike's enthusiasm and determination should make his career both long and fruitful.*

**Born** – 14 May 1939, Fort Benning, GA. Army Brat.

**To USMA** – Came from Youngstown, OH. Appointed by Indiana 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Died** – 20 Aug 1964 (age 25), Killed-in-Action (KIA), Ben Tre, Vietnam. Buried at West Point.

**Military Awards** – Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge.

**Schooling** – Army Language School.

**Family** - Wife – Mary Louise Wilson Coyle Coyle (2 years) – 2 children (James Michael Jr., and Carolyn Marie) – grandchildren.

**Contact** – Mary Coyle Lidwell, Address 17 Morgan Turn, Ocean View, DE 19970, Phone 301-922-0291, Email marylwck@yahoo.com.

Mike served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 3 plus years until his untimely death in Vietnam in 1964. His first assignment was with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He was a platoon leader in the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group, 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. He later commanded Company E of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Battle Group, 504<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

In Vietnam he was assigned as an Advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Battalion in Kien Hoa Province, about 45 miles south of Saigon. Early on the morning of 20 August 1964, Mike's battalion and a Ranger battalion were ordered to go to the relief of a village that had been burned to the ground by the Viet Cong. Late that same afternoon, the battalions were ordered to visit another village that had been hit to survey the damage. It was while these units were moving to the second village that the Viet Cong ambushed the battalion and cut it to pieces. All four American advisors with these units were killed. Mike was promoted posthumously to Captain. Mike brought to his military service a strong feeling of obligation, volunteering for duty in Vietnam because he "felt that it was something he should do."

Footnote – Mike's second child, Carolyn Marie was born eight days before his death. He was given a pass to Saigon and talked to his wife, Mary Louise on the overseas telephone. The same week, on Friday morning, a telegram from the Army Adjutant General's Office told Mary Louise that Mike was dead.