

JAMES NELSON CLARK

PFC - E3 - Army - Selective Service
25th Infantry Division
21 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on May 28, 1948
From DETROIT, MICHIGAN
His tour of duty began on Dec 22, 1968
Casualty was on Jun 09, 1969
in TAY NINH, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
EPISCOPAL, ANGLICAN

Panel 23W - - Line 118

James is buried at Cadillac Memorial Gardens, East, Clinton Twp., MI



East Detroit HS

Two County Servicemen Killed in Vietnam

EAST DETROIT – “God must have wanted Jim for another purpose” wrote a friend of PFC James N. Clark whom he met in Detroit and whom he saw die from a Viet Cong bullet outside of Saigon.

The letter written to Clark’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Clark, 23079 Shakespeare, was authored by a soldier who James met at a motorcycle club meeting in Detroit and served together in Vietnam, with the 23rd Infantry Division.

The letter continued to say “Jim had done a very brave thing” and everything possible had been done to save his life but that “God wanted him for another purpose.”

Legally Clark became an adult May 28 but the privileges and the responsibilities that accompanied his 21st birthday had lasted less than two weeks.

Just 12 days after his birthday, Clark was killed June 9 while on patrol just outside the city limits of Saigon.

His letters home to his family were of mixed emotion, according to his brother Charles.

“He was not in favor of the war and he didn’t want to be drafted, but he went.

“But in his last letter home Clark said, “he was very vehement about stopping the bombing of North Vietnam because he felt a lot more GI’s would die.”

James Clark graduated from East Detroit High School in January 1968 and was employed by Jones and Laughlin Steel Co. before being drafted in July 1968.

He received his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and his advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, La.

Clark was sent to Vietnam in December where he was assigned to a combat engineers unit operating near the demilitarized zone. He was transferred to the 23rd infantry Unit in Saigon shortly before his death.

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