

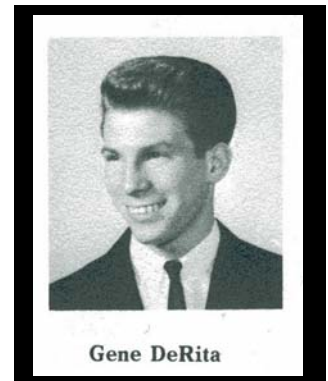
# GENE DI RITA

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CPL - E4 - Army - Selective Service  
9th Infantry Division  
20 year old Single, Caucasian, Male  
Born on Sep 14, 1947  
From ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN  
Length of service 1 year.  
His tour of duty began on Apr 07, 1967  
Casualty was on Dec 10, 1967  
in LONG AN, SOUTH VIETNAM  
Hostile, died while missing  
GROUND CASUALTY  
OTHER EXPLOSIVE DEVICE  
Body was recovered  
Religion  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
  
Panel 31E - - Line 71

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Gene is buried at Mount Olivet Cem., Detroit, MI



Gene DeRita

Roseville HS '65

## SON DIES IN ACTION

### Their Holiday Joy Shattered

ROSEVILLE – Mr. And Mrs. Eugene Dirita felt their Christmas would be filled with extra joy this year because it was heralded by the arrival of their first grandchild on Friday.

The joy was shattered on the same day when they received a Defense Department telegram notifying them that their only son, Army Pfc. Gene Dirita, had been killed in action in Vietnam. Pfc. Dirita, 20, was killed on Dec. 10 while fighting with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. His sister, Vicki, now Mrs. Rodney Beebe, of 33097 Browley, Warren, gave birth to a daughter, Kimberly, Friday at St. Joseph Hospital in Mount Clemens.

Pfc. Dirita's father said his son was on a mission aboard a helicopter somewhere in Vietnam and stepped on a land mine while he was getting off the aircraft in the landing zone.

Dirita was inducted into the Army in October, 1966 and had been in Vietnam since April 9. He graduated from Roseville High School in June, 1965. He worked at his father's firm, D and S wood processing, in St. Clair Shores, as a cabinetmaker before entering the Army.

His last letter to arrive at the Dirita home at 25584 Normandy was dated, Dec. 9-one day before he died. His mother Emma, said he was "in excellent spirits and counting his days in Vietnam." Pfc. Dirita's last words to his family were: "P.S., MOM: Only 111 days left."

*The Macomb Daily, December 16, 1967, front page*

### Death Notice

#### **DE RITA**

**GENE** (Suddenly in Vietnam). Beloved son of Eugene and Emma (Nee D'Orazio). Dear brother of Mrs. Rodney (Vicki) Bebee. Dear grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Di Rita. Nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Primo Benaquito, Romeo Di Rita, Victor Di Rita, Marshall D'Orazio, and the late Glullo Di Rita. Funeral from Frank J. Calcaterra Funeral Home, 16090 E. Seven Mile Rd. (Moross at Kelly) Friday 9:15 a.m. St. Angela Church, 10 a.m. Bible service Thursday, 9 p.m.

*The Macomb Daily, December 20, 1967, page 4-A*

