

# HARRY GROVER KUNKLER III

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SP5 - E5 - Army - Regular  
1st AVN BDE  
19 year old Single, Caucasian, Male  
Born on Nov 05, 1949  
From UTICA, MICHIGAN  
Length of service 1 year.  
His tour of duty began on Jan 05, 1969  
Casualty was on Jun 11, 1969  
in QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM  
NON-HOSTILE, HELICOPTER - CREW  
AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND  
Body was recovered  
Religion  
PROTESTANT

Panel 22W - - Line 22

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Harry is buried at Prestonville Cemetery, Shelby Twp., MI



Utica HS '67

# Sterling Soldier Killed in Vietnam

By Cathie Misch  
Of our Sterling Bureau

STERLING HEIGHTS – A mother’s promise to her son is a kind of sacred trust; it has to be kept no matter what happens.

Mrs. Harry Kunkler, 39821 Parklawn Dr., promised her 19 year-old son Harry III, that she would get him a diploma from Utica High School. The young soldier was killed in Vietnam last week but he will have his diploma.

SP-5 Kunkler had 18 credits when he finished his senior year in 1967. But he lacked one-half credit in the required English and so didn’t receive a diploma.

After her son left for Vietnam in January Mrs. Kunkler contacted Utica High School Principal David Lathers to see about the diploma. Although it is not standard procedure Lathers agreed to award the diploma if Mrs. Kunkler forwarded her son’s G.E.D. scores.

The promised diploma will be ready just about the time the soldier’s body arrives home from Vietnam next week.

Stationed near Da Nang, SP-5 Kunkler was a helicopter crew chief with the 282<sup>nd</sup> Assault Helicopter Company. He joined the Army Jan. 22, 1968 and volunteered for service in Vietnam in December of that year.

A “Born Mechanic”, Kunkler’s parents had only recently received a letter from his commanding officer citing their son as “one of the ten outstanding men in his company.”

“He has displayed superb traits in leadership and his manner of performance has been outstanding.” The letter said.

The letter described Kunkler as the kind of man who is the “foundation and backbone of our military services.”

“Your son possesses those leadership characteristics required to be successful in whatever pursuits he may undertake in the future,” he said.

Kunkler came home on leave before he left for Vietnam. One morning over breakfast his mother, dismayed that he had volunteered for the war zone, asked him why.

“He said he felt he was finally doing something worthwhile,” she said.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. He is survived by his parents: a sister, Mrs. Thom (Karen) Ruthenburg; two brothers, James and Tom, and a grandfather, Earl Howard of Illinois.

*The Macomb Daily, Thursday, June 19, 1969, page 10-A*

## Harry G. Kunkler III

STERLING HEIGHTS – Services for SP5 Harry G. Kunkler III, 19, of 39821 Parklawn, were held today at Diener Funeral Home, 48271 Van Dyke, Utica. Burial with full military honors was in Prestonville Cemetery, Shelby Township.

He was born Nov. 5, 1949 in Streator, Ill, the son of Harry and Wilma Kunkler. He died June 11 in Vietnam while serving as crew chief aboard a helicopter.

Surviving, besides his parents, are two brothers, James and Thomas, at home; a sister, Mrs. Thom (Karen) Rutherford of Sterling Heights; a grandfather, Earl Howard of Bloomington, Ill., and a great-grandmother, Mrs. Sadie Blan of Normal, Ill.

*The Macomb Daily, Tuesday, June 24, 1969, page 2-A*

