

EUGENE JOSEPH CONNER

CLASS 44-53

is honored on Panel 36E, Row 3 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: EUGENE JOSEPH CONNER
Wall Name: EUGENE J CONNER
Date of Birth: 3/6/1929
Date of Casualty: 1/31/1968
Home of Record: CUMBERLAND
State: IA
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: MAJ
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: GIA DINH



Major Conner was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving with Advisory Team 100, Capital Military District Advisory Detachment, United States Army Advisory Group, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV).

From thewall-usa.com

Like every other sophomore male at USM, I attended mandatory ROTC classes. Maj. Eugene Conner was one of my instructors. Outside of class, he and I would talk about many things, including the war. Eugene had an easy going manner that made him a great teacher and mentor. As a direct result of his influence, I continued in the ROTC program, got my commission and went into the Army Security Agency. One of the saddest days of my life was attending his funeral in Hattiesburg. I think of Major Eugene Conner often. He is not forgotten.

Steve Emmett
1215 Glen Heather Drive
Windermere FL 34786
Sep 6, 2008

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 737

19 February 1968

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

CONNOR, EUGENE J 04009459 (SSAN 480-36-3016) MAJOR ARTILLERY United States Army, Advisory Team 100, Capital Military District Advisory Detachment, United States Army Advisory Group, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, APO 96222

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 31 January 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Major Connor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 31 January 1968 while serving as a member of an advisory team during enemy attacks on Saigon. When he was informed that a truck carrying twenty military policemen had been savagely ambushed in an alley in Gia Dinh and all of the soldiers had been killed or wounded, Major Connor immediately moved to the battle site and volunteered to assist in rescuing the trapped victims. The Viet Cong were firmly entrenched in buildings along the alley and had set up a fierce crossfire with rockets and automatic weapons. Completely disregarding his personal safety, Major Connor led a small party through the curtain of fire to reach the trapped men. Ignoring bullets striking all around him, he helped carry the wounded men to safety and then volunteered to lead a sweeping force to clear the hostile positions. Intense enemy fire erupted from a nearby building and stalled the advance of the friendly troops, so Major Connor and one other man fearlessly charged the fortifications alone. As he neared the building, he was instantly killed by a Viet Cong rocket. His gallant and fearless leadership in the face of great odds was responsible for saving several lives and inspired his men to fight furiously in the heat of battle. Major Connor's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.