

MICHAEL JAMES PARMERTER**Class 21A-67**

is honored on Panel 22W, Row 113 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: MICHAEL JAMES PARMERTER
Wall Name: MICHAEL J PARMERTER
Date of Birth: 7/30/1944
Date of Casualty: 6/22/1969
Home of Record: MIDLAND PARK
County of Record: BERGEN COUNTY
State: NJ
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: KHANH HOA



CPT Parmarter died while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was the 173rd Airborne Brigade Liaison Officer to the Special Forces at Nha Trang.

Mike and I served together in 82d ABN DIV, and 173d ABN BDE

This photo of Mike Parmarter was taken at FT Bragg as, he, my wife, and I were attending a New Year's Eve Party given by the 82d ABN DIV.

Mike was living on post with us, as our CO had confined him to post, for chronic late arrival!

Mike was a good guy, and an interesting friend.

We think of him often, and wonder how he, and his comrades on the wall would have lived their lives, had they been fortunate enough to come home, like we lucky ones.

Posted by: Tom Coats

Relationship: We served together

June 9, 2006

From www.173d.com

Mike Parmerter, was a friend of mine, we served in the 82d ABN DIV briefly, before going to Vietnam in FEB 68, on the same orders. He lived in New Jersey, he was a few years older than I, and when he was disciplined for being chronically late for duty on base, the Battery Commander, restricted him to post. In those days, every room was filled with officers, and men traveling through Fort Bragg, and there was really no place for him to stay. He moved into the post housing being shared by my wife and I, and became our house guest until we returned home to Kansas to relocate before I went to Vietnam.

Mike had an uncle in San Francisco, and we left my home in Kansas a couple of days early for a tour of the city, with his uncle. When we arrived in Vietnam we were separated with assignments to different units. As I said he was older, and more educated than I, and after a brief stint as a Forward Observer, Mike ended up as the 173rd Liaison Officer to the Special Forces at Nha Trang. I believe I actually saw him once after our arrival, but I am sure we corresponded a few times. He was dissatisfied with his part in the war, and unhappy with the state of affairs with his girl-friend back in New Jersey. I do not mean to imply he killed himself over their break-up, as I never met her, but I do recall they had a troubled relationship. He shot himself with his pistol, and that was all I knew about him after that. Some years later, early 70's, I met another 173rd SSG at a National Guard meeting, that claimed to have helped remove his body from his quarters at Nha Trang.

In addition, I made contact with an officer who recalled processing paperwork about Mike's death, while serving on Brigade staff at Bong Song. I lost the officer's name, and never learned any more details of his death. I also have not been successful in finding more information from the 173d Brigade web site, although I have asked 2-3 different times. Mike was an intelligent guy, sort of quiet, but affable and friendly. He drove an Austin Healy Sprite roadster automobile, and drank Scotch whiskey, I think it was Pinch. He smoked a lot, and was someone who should have had a better outcome for his life. I never met his family, and have never met anyone else who claimed to know the details of how Mike died.

I have a couple of photos of Mike, one of us at a load master school at Fort Bragg, after a jump, and another of him standing beside my wife in his dress blues (see photo below) before we went to a party at the Officer's Club at Bragg.

Tom Coats
Glen Allen, VA
173rd Airborne Brigade
FEB 68-69

My name is Keith Parmerter. I am Michael's younger brother. I live in NJ with my wife. I am considerably younger than Michael, 13 years to be exact. I have an older brother Lee who lives in New York. He was closer to Michael's age and just turned 60 this past February. I will try to relate to you what happened to Mike the best I can from what my dad told me. He said that Michael and another officer had gone to some sort of party and were drinking heavily. On their way home a Vietnamese woman was coming towards them saying something in Vietnamese. Michael ordered her to stop several times, and then he shot her, thinking she might have a grenade. When they checked her she was unarmed. Michael was so full of remorse he went back home and shot himself. This is what my father told me. I'm not sure who related the story to my dad whether it was the soldier who escorted Michael's body home and broke the news to my family, or another soldier who contacted my dad who said he knew what happened to Mike. I'm sorry I don't know either ones name or I don't know the accuracy of the story I've related to you. I was only 11 when Mike died. Although there are vivid memories I have that surround that event, I think my parents tried to shelter me from a lot of things. I remember seeing telegrams with statements cut out of them and other things blacked out.

Keith Parmerter
New Jersey, USA



Michael is buried at Florida Cemetery, Florida, New York