

EDWARD LEE PENNINGTON

Class 22A-67

is honored on Panel 19W, Row 41 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: EDWARD LEE PENNINGTON
Wall Name: EDWARD L PENNINGTON
Date of Birth: 9/2/1942
Date of Casualty: 8/14/1969
Home of Record: PHILLIPS
County of Record: HUTCHINSON COUNTY
State: TX
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: BINH THUAN



CPT Pennington was killed in action while serving with Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Team # 47.

Edward is buried at Westlawn Memorial Park, Borger, Texas.

A Leader of Men

Capt. Pennington was my commanding officer in Ft. Hood, TX before extending and going to Vietnam - he felt guilty for having served his duty in the states while so many others were going to Vietnam. He was a kind and gentle person who tried his best to help whoever was in need. During all these years, I've never forgotten the then Lt. Pennington and the leadership he showed not just within our battery (C), but to the whole unit (1st of the 73rd Artillery). Sleep well, Lt. Pennington, you are missed by your friends, and family.

Posted by: Bill Flato
Relationship: We served together
October 3, 2006

BIG ED

A mountain of a man who could be rough as a bear or as gentle as a lamb. Ed was respected by all and was friend to all. A very good man who is missed by all.

Posted by: William Skibo

Relationship: We served together

August 25, 2001

Edward Lee Pennington: He made everyone feel like they were his close, personal friend.

I felt like I had known him for a year. It had only been three months. Everyone mourned his loss. I hope his family knows how universally liked and respected he was.

Posted by: John E. Anderson

Relationship: We served together

February 11, 2001

From the Borger News Herald, August 26, 1969

It was hot and still and overcast in Westlawn Memorial Park Monday afternoon. Seven soldiers stood tall, having snapped from "parade rest" at a whispered command. A brisk order, and seven pairs of highly-polished heels clicked together as the soldiers executed "right face" and faced towards the west. Another order, rifles pointed heavenward, at the ready, and then silence as awaiting for a command to fire. Three rounds thundered in unison by each of seven soldiers; back to "attention," and then "present arms," the military rifle salute.

Silence was broken by the sound of a lone bugler, sadly blowing taps for the last time, for a 26-year-old Phillips soldier.

Captain Edward Lee Pennington, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Pennington, 8 S. Oberfell, Phillips, was born Sept. 2, 1942. He died Aug. 14, 1969 on foreign soil, thousands of miles from home, and away from those whom he loved. Capt. Pennington was on a military mission in Vietnam when a hostile force was encountered, and he was killed in action.

Memorial services were conducted Monday, at the Johnson Park Church of Christ, with Charles Whitmire, minister, officiating.

Sixteen members of his graduating class of 1961, and as many other schoolmates whom he considered close friends, sat in a special section of the chapel reserved for honorary pallbearers. Others who knew and respected Capt. Pennington were out of

town, and unable to attend, but sent word of regrets to the family. The rest of the chapel was filled with mourners, many weeping silently for a man who died in the service of his country.

"Whatever he did," said Mr. Whitmire, "he put his utmost into that what he did."

"When inducted, he was determined to become the best soldier he knew how. Capt. Pennington had been in the army for three years, and then he volunteered to go to Vietnam.

"He was there, not because he had to, but because he wanted to.

"He was there for you. He was there for me.

"He was there because he believed freedom should be shared by other countries."

Edward Lee Pennington was an active student at Phillips High School where he played varsity football, participated in band, choir, and the student council. He was elected senior class favorite, and he was a delegate to Boy's State.

He attended the University of Texas for three years, and had plans to complete his education after leaving the service.

"In the springtime of life," said Mr. Whitmire, "he was taken from us.

"Edward Pennington prepared for death early in his life. He believed and he was baptized."

Nearly 100 cars made up the funeral procession, which was a mile long, and an estimated 250 persons joined the military salute to a fallen soldier. During the special rites, a United States flag, taken from his casket, was held by six soldiers, standing at attention before the fallen captain.

The last note of taps sounded and slowly faded into the breezeless overcast atmosphere. The seven saluting soldiers smartly came to attention, and back to "parade rest," as the flag was meticulously folded and presented to the family.

Fifteen soldiers turned, faced the bier, saluted, then marched silently away from their captain's final resting place.

A humble and modest tribute - a final salute to Edward Lee Pennington, Captain, U.S. Army.

(Published in Borger News Herald, August 26, 1969)