

**JAMES PATRICK SCHUELLER****CLASS 10-65**

is honored on Panel 22E, Row 2 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** JAMES PATRICK SCHUELLER  
**Wall Name:** JAMES P SCHUELLER  
**Date of Birth:** 8/16/1942  
**Date of Casualty:** 6/17/1967  
**Home of Record:** MARSHFIELD  
**State:** WI  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** PR & MR UNKNOWN



1LT Schueller served as a Forward Observer with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. He had extended his tour of duty for six months and was a passenger on a C-130 making a scheduled "round robin" flight originating at and returning to Tan Son Nhut. The aircraft was to make seven stops within South Vietnam before returning to Tan Son Nhut. At An Khe the aircraft started its take off roll for the next leg to Qui Nhon. Just before the aircraft was about to lift off it suddenly veered to the left and departed the runway. The pilots steered the aircraft back on to the runway but it overshot the end, ran down an embankment and burst into flames. Of the 56 passengers and crew on board a total of 35 were killed, including US, South Vietnamese, and South Korean troops.

QL 19, the major highway from Qui Nhon and Pleiku, runs through the An Khe Pass and (about 35 km west of An Khe) the Mang Yang Pass. The Mang Yang Pass was the scene in 1954 of the ambush which effectively destroyed the French Groupe Mobile 100. The opening scene of the movie "We Were Soldiers" depicts this battle. Firebase Schueller, just past the Mang Yang Pass, was named for 1LT James Schueller.

## **From the Marshfield News Herald in 1966**

### Local Soldier Has 2 Jobs in Vietnam

A Marshfield soldier, who is serving in South Vietnam, has found something to keep himself busy where he is not fighting the Viet Cong. First Lt. James Schueller, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schueller, Route 2, Marshfield, recently established a teaching program in the village of An Khe, which is located near Saigon.

"During my spare time, I was able to set up a teaching program," he said in a letter to his parents. "I teach English to 46 seventh graders one hour a day. "When I am on an operation away from my base camp, there are several other soldiers willing to teach in my absence."

Schueller wrote, "I have also taught them a few American sports and they have become very good softball players." "Helping the Vietnamese in my own little way makes this combat tour pass much quicker and definitely more interesting. By associating with the people, I have picked up a good part of the language which is most important in order to understand them." Schueller also reported that he has been invited by the village school director to attend some native banquets and rituals which he termed, "most exciting."

He is a forward observer with B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, 1st Cavalry.

A 1960 Marshfield Senior High School graduate, Schueller attended Wisconsin State University at River Falls and Stevens Point before entering the service in April, 1964.

He received his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, where he won two letters of recommendation - one for attaining the highest score of anyone in his battalion (991 men) on a physical test, and the other for being the leader of the squad which achieved the highest overall average of the battalion's 64 squads.

The soldier received advanced individual training at Ft. Know, KY, and then returned to Ft. Leonard Wood where he was promoted to platoon sergeant while awaiting to go to officer's candidate school. After being commissioned a second lieutenant in September, 1965, Schueller volunteered for jump school and was, in turn, assigned as training officer in the basic training center at Ft. Benning, GA.

Schueller arrived in Vietnam in July, 1966, and was promoted to his present rank in November, 1966. He will return home in July and expects to return to college in the fall.

**28 Mar 2003**



**Bob Giselbach, left; Jim Schueller, right. April 1967.**

1LT Schueller extended his tour of duty in Vietnam for 6 months. As was the policy at that time the U.S. government would fly you to any place in the world. LT Schueller chose Germany to see and visit with his grandparents whom he had never met. As the plane was taking off it crashed. We were told a LT that fit the description of LT Schueller was thrown clear of the burning aircraft, a C-130, but he chose to return to the flaming airplane to help the survivors when the airplane exploded. The photo is of me (left) and LT Schueller (right), taken in April 1967. I have the utmost respect for Lieutenant Schueller. He was a great officer.

Bob Giselbach  
28 Mar 2003

***Stories:***

Bob Dylan so eloquently described many of the heroes simple yet beautifully written, "With God on Our Side." The lyrics read, "Oh my name it is nothin, my age it means less. The country I come from is called the Midwest. I's taught and brought up there, the laws to abide. And that land that I live in has God on its side." Too many of these heroes have been forgotten to the public and lost to the Vietnam War. One such casualty is James Patrick Schueller.

James Patrick Schueller was born of this earth on August 18, 1942 in Marshfield, WI. He was a Marshfield High School Graduate of 1960. After high school, he went on to attend the nearby universities of Stevens Point and River Falls. He voluntarily went into the military service in April of 1964, but was unaware of the future.

James Schueller took to basic training well. There, in Fort Leonardwood, he won two letters of recommendation for his abilities. He then went to Ft. Know, KY for advanced training and then back to Fort Leonard Wood for candidate school. At candidate school, he was promoted to platoon sergeant. In September of 1965, he volunteered for jump school, but was placed as a training officer at Ft. Benning, GA in a basic training center. It wasn't until July of 1966 that James was sent to Vietnam. There, in November, he was promoted to First Lieutenant.

James was able to make his time in Vietnam worthwhile. In South Vietnam, in the village of An Khe somewhere near Saigon, he set up a teaching program for 46 seventh graders. He unprecedentedly taught these students English when not fighting in combat. In his absence, other soldiers would fill in for him at the school. Being athletic, one of the other things James was proud of was teaching the Vietnamese children American sports. He wrote his family, telling them that they've become good softball players. He was no doubt proud of his accomplishments.

As well as benefiting the children, this school benefited James. This school was a way for James to seclude himself from the war. It was a way for him to make his combat tour more interesting and quicker. Another event, besides the school, that James felt excited about was the native banquets the director of the village school gave him the opportunity to attend. He was also able to pick up part of the Vietnamese language, which was important to understand at a time when very few communications were taking place.

In June 23, 1967, James was on an aircraft heading towards Tan Son Nhut. Dramatically, the aircraft had experienced turbulence and overshot the runway end. The aircraft couldn't handle it, and had burst into flames. Services and burial were held by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Schueller in Bakersville, WI.

James was a noble young man who died at the age of 24 years young- too young by anyone's standards. His fellow soldiers thought of him as a great officer. His talent for making the best out of a bad situation was commended then and should be recognized even now. James Patrick Schueller did mean something; he was not a nothing. His young age spoke miles for what he was able to accomplish in Vietnam during his service to the U.S. He will always be a respectable young man, known for helping others learn. We salute you 1st Lieutenant. James Schueller.

***Written by: Molly Lake  
Marshfield Senior High***

**James Patrick Schueller**  
**Born - August 16, 1942**  
**Died - June 17, 1967**

On a 160-acre farm south of Bakerville, Wisconsin in the Town of Lincoln, Wood County was where the Gertrude and John Schueller lived and raised their family. The oldest girl was Elizabeth, better known as Betty, (Sherman) Stoflet. Next was James, who was called Jim. He was followed by four brothers Don, Ron, Larry, John Jr. and a sister named Linda (Everett) Donnerbauer.

Jim's early years of education, grades one through eight, began at Corpus Christi School at Bakerville. During those younger years his mother said, "He was very good in the kitchen." He helped her with many of the household chores, like baking, canning, and taking care of his baby sister, Linda.

While attending Marshfield Senior High, in nearby Marshfield, he was active in wrestling, track, cross country, commercial club and the 'M' Club, graduating from the class of 1960. It is said that he and his father enjoyed wrestling for fun in the family home, but the dog would bark continuously, wanting to protect the master of the house, even from such mock confrontations.

Jim attended two UW Schools, those being River Falls and Stevens Point. Moving to UW-Stevens Point meant he was a little closer to home. His little Volkswagen Beetle brought him home many times while attending college. Being with family, washing clothes, and have a home cooked meal every now and then was convenient. The aroma and taste of Mom's home baked bread not only drew Jim to the kitchen but the rest of the family as well. They enjoyed the mouth watering event as it came fresh out of the oven. During summer breaks, Jim worked on several area farms to help with the harvest and earn a few extra dollars. His mother claims the military likes farm boys because they were physically strong. His brother claims that Jim had many skills in the area of leadership.

In the spring of 1964 he decided to enlist in the Army. He told Mom he thought the country really needed him. Basic training was completed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. There he won two letters of recommendation. One in which he attained the highest score of anyone in the battalion of 991 men on a physical test. The other was being leader of a squad which achieved highest average of the battalion's sixty-four squads.

He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in September in 1965. Jim was promoted to First Lieutenant in November 1966 while in Vietnam. While on duty in Vietnam, Mom said, "Jim spent his spare hours teaching a class of seventh grade girls the English language, and the boys the game of baseball." Packages sent from home during his time in Vietnam consisted of baseballs and bats. Jim was considered a friend to everyone he met.

Jim signed up for another year of duty. He boarded a plane that was headed to Spain for a month of "R& R." The airplane was loaded, ready for takeoff. The circumstances are somewhat unclear just what happened and where it took place. But these are the best details that were available. There was an explosion in the plane. Jim had made it out just fine. But after realizing some of his buddies and children did not get off the plane, he re-entered the airplane to help rescue them. Then there was another explosion on the plane, and it was at this time that Jim lost his life. It is thought that the airplane may have been sabotaged by the enemy.

The family was told by a Captain that their son had died in service for his country. Now forty years later, the tears still fill the eyes of his mother as she speaks of him, and his military picture hangs in her room in the nursing home where she now resides.

His remains are buried in the Corpus Christi Cemetery in Bakerville a few miles from what was once his home. This is only one soldier from one war that still remains in the hearts of his family and the thoughts of the Wood County. May God send peace to all those who have suffered from the loss of his life.

***Written and interviewed by Lorraine Rogers on March 6, 2007.  
Family that shared special moments about Jim Schueller, was his mother Gertrude, and his brother Don.***

## The Final Bridge

James is buried at Corpus Christi Cemetery in Bakerville, WI. James is located on the left side, 1st row, 1st column next to the road.

Posted by: Steve Conto, Menasha, WI  
July 19, 2011

## Memories

I had left the country prior to Lt Schueller's death. I read about the tragic plane crash which took his life. His name will be remembered on future Memorial Days along with the other 2/17th FA vets who gave their lives in Vietnam.

Posted by: Jack Picciolo  
Relationship: We served together  
April 22, 2003