

is honored on Panel 30E, Row 87 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** ROBERT ANDREW VAN PATTEN  
**Wall Name:** ROBERT A VAN PATTEN  
**Date of Birth:** 3/26/1943  
**Date of Casualty:** 11/25/1967  
**Home of Record:** SAN CARLOS  
**County of Record:** SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**State:** CA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** BINH DUONG



1LT Van Patten was killed in action while trying to save a fellow soldier who was taken down by enemy fire. He was assigned to Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery and served as a Forward Observer with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

***From www.thewall-usa.com***

#### **All American Hero Who Sacrificed for Another**

I was the man who pulled Bob back from the clearing where he had tried to rescue another man, Lt. Mlynarski, whom I did not know. Bob was the Company Forward Observer. Mlynarski had been killed first and Bob was trying to recover the body, from what I was told later. He was a true Hero. I was the Forward Observer in a sister company so before that horrible date, he and I had some time together. He was a sensitive man who was too good for that terrible war. I remember him with an easy smile on his face most all the time and a very positive attitude. I contacted his parents when I returned and they told me he played the piano beautifully. Bob's gift to the world was his willingness to sacrifice his own life for that of a comrade. Blessings to those who knew him and loved him.

Ken McKenzie  
Friend who was there the day he died  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
August 30, 2003

## **A Note from The Virtual Wall**

On 25 Nov 1967 C Company, 2/22nd Infantry, conducted an operation in the "Mushroom Bend" of the Saigon River, about 16 kilometers due west of Ben Cat. Three infantrymen and the Company's artillery Forward Observer were killed in the action:

C Co, 2nd Bn, 22nd Infantry  
2LT Robert L. Mlynarski, New Britain, CT  
CPL John A. Gibson, Grandin, MO  
PFC Dennis R. Estes, Garden Grove, CA

B Btry, 2nd Bn, 77th Artillery  
**1LT Robert A. Van Patten, San Carlos, CA (Silver Star)**

