

William Michael Grammar

First Lieutenant

ADV TEAM 4, USMC ADV UNIT, NAVAL ADV GROUP, USNAVFORV

United States Marine Corps

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

March 10, 1942 to May 20, 1967

WILLIAM M GRAMMAR is on the Wall at Panel 20E, Line 59



William Michael Grammar

INDEX OF NOMINATION MATERIALS

Tab 1 Nomination of William Michael Grammar

Nomination Form

Nomination Statement

Death Report

.....Nomination Endorsements

Lieutenant Jason P. Grammar, U.S. Navy

.....Roger Staubach, USNA 1965, Friend

.....United States Naval Academy Alumni Association

Tab 2....Early Life Influence Stories

.....Photos

Tab 3....Military Service

.....Silver Star Citation

POW Citation

.....Excerpt on battle from US Marines in Vietnam 1967

Tab 4 Remembrances From Classmates of 1965

OKLAHOMA MILITARY HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

May 30, 2018

Highest rank: **1LT** Full Name of Nominee: **William Michael Grammar**

Is nominee still living or deceased? **Deceased**

Date and place of birth: **Oklahoma City, OK**

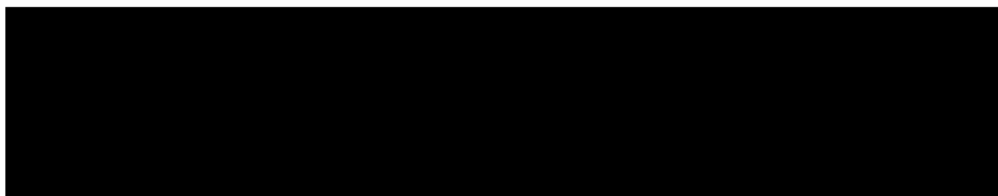
Branch(es) of Service: **United States Marine Corps**

Connection to Oklahoma (circle all that apply): **Born** **raised**, served, retired, other: _____

If deceased, name the individual to accept award: **Richard Grammar**

Acceptor's relationship or affiliation to nominee: **Son**

Name of nominator: **Bob Grammar & John Farris**



William Michael Grammar

NOMINATION STATEMENT

Mr. William Michael (Mike) Grammar is the type of person parents, teachers and future employers want their children to become--someone who grows up to be thoughtful, inquisitive, respectful, caring and, additionally, has the potential to lead and influence. Mike Grammar had those qualities yet on that fateful day in Quang Tri Province, May 20, 1967, he would not come home to personally influence the world but his example as a young Oklahoman and United States Marine makes his induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame an important and meaningful event for Oklahoma's young people!

Early Life: At the beginning of World War II Mike's parents were serving in Puerto Rico shortly before his birth and G.R. Grammar, an Army officer, mentioned to his wife that time was getting close for making preparations for the birth. Nemory Grammar was insistent that their child was not going to be born anywhere except in Oklahoma. The ship transit to New Orleans was uneventful as it was accompanied by two US Navy vessels. Mike was born on March 10, 1942 in Oklahoma City. During the next twenty years young Mike and his brothers would learn, from his parents, uncles and aunts, that it was important to be a person of character.

Military: Mike Grammar was an excellent student, a voracious reader, a violinist, Boy Scout, and football player. He earned a Naval ROTC scholarship to the University of Oklahoma on graduation from Harding High School in 1960. He applied and was admitted to the United States Naval Academy in 1961 and graduated, in the top 25%, with the Class of 1965. He chose the United States Marine Corp on graduation. Following completion of Basic School at Quantico he reported to Camp Lejune where he was Executive Officer of G Company, 2d Marine Division and commanded the sub unit while on a six month cruise. After attending Special Warfare School at Ft Bragg, he reported to Headquarters MACV, with duty at Quang Tri as advisor to the South Vietnamese Army. On the night of May 20 1967, while serving as the Senior Advisor to the 3d Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st ARVN Division, the battalion command group would be overrun by a large North Vietnamese Force. During the 14 hour struggle, as Grammar fought to save his Advisory Team, he would attempt to draw the enemy away from his survivors. This act of valor would lead to his death and the posthumous Silver Star award.

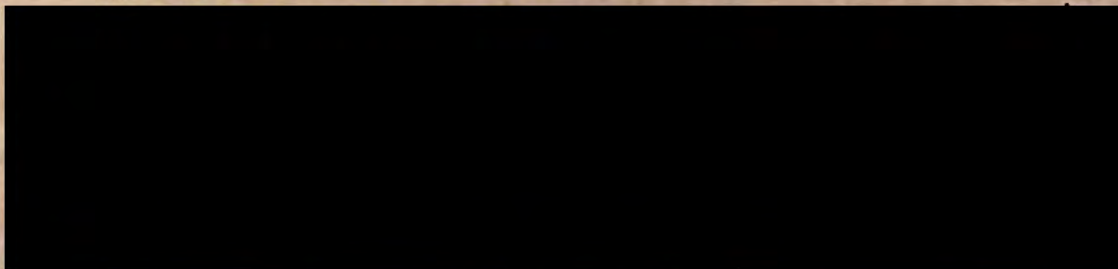


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

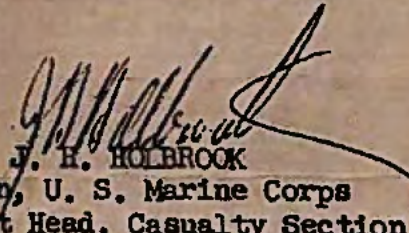
IN REPLY REFER TO
DNA-WCW

DEATH REPORT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the records of Headquarters, Marine Corps



Given under my hand at Washington, D. C., this 16th day of
June, 1967.


J. H. HOLBROOK
Captain, U. S. Marine Corps
Assistant Head, Casualty Section
Personal Affairs Branch

May 31, 2018

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation
Hall of Fame Review Committee
P. O. Box 30658
Edmond, OK 73003

To The Members of the Review Committee:

I am writing this letter today to recommend First Lieutenant William Michael Grammar for induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Lt. Grammar and I were Plebe summer roommates and became good friends during our Naval Academy days. I can't say enough about Mike and his character. He was a great guy and well respected by our classmates at Navy.

I knew Mike was a tough Marine, and being in the Navy myself, we supported the Marine Corps in Da Nang and Chu Lai up to the DMZ. I have tremendous respect for the Marine Corp; Mike represented the very best as an officer and leader. After his death, I heard so many good things about Mike from those who served with him.

Mike was always thinking and caring about someone else and he gave his life for his country. He was a top student and a great person. ✓

I know that you will be proud to have him in the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Roger Staubach

May 28, 2018

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation
Hall of Fame Review Committee
P.O. Box 30658
Edmond, OK 73003

Dear Members of the Review Committee:

I write to you today as living proof of the powerful and lasting legacy of First Lieutenant William Michael Grammar. His story of selflessness and sacrifice, which I learned as a child, forever changed my life.

I followed in his footsteps to the varsity football field, to the University of Oklahoma, and then to Annapolis; where often I would stand alone at night under the ponderous chandeliers of Memorial Hall, the Naval Academy's grand monument to its fallen heroes, and wonder, while staring at my reflection on his engraved name: Could I be selfless like Uncle Mike?

Uncle Mike's portrait occupied pride of place in my barracks room at the Academy as a reminder of a former midshipman who gave his all. I am now a junior officer as my uncle was in the 1960s, and I have given my all so far. I have lived for six of the last nine years in Asia serving the Navy in forward-deployed units.

His portrait has followed me the entire time; witnessing the horrors of Fukushima, the sinking of the Republic of Korea ship Cheonan in the Korean West Sea, tense patrols of the South China Sea and Korean maritime DMZ, numerous foreign disaster-relief missions, and has stood watch on the most remote U.S. territories while under threat of nuclear attack. His portrait was there for me when we were buzzed repeatedly by Russian bombers in the Korean Sea while standing a lonely watch underway on Thanksgiving Day—on two separate occasions. His spirit has endured to face down the Communist threat as his body did so many decades ago.

Inspired by my uncle's legacy of academic excellence, I continued my education with zeal; earning a MBA from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2014 and a MPA from Harvard University in 2017.

We will never know what Uncle Mike may have accomplished were he blessed with more time. However, I know I carry his legacy forward every day. I hope Uncle Mike is the genesis of generations of Grammar family service at the Naval Academy and a source of timeless inspiration for Oklahomans to give of themselves selflessly and to be all that they can be.

Sincerely,

JASON P. GRAMMAR
LIEUTENANT, U.S. NAVY



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation
Hall of Fame Review Committee
P.O. Box 30658
Edmond, OK 73003

Members of the Review Committee:

On behalf of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, Oklahoma City Chapter, we are honored to enthusiastically nominate and strongly recommend First Lieutenant William Michael Grammar, posthumously, for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

The son of a career soldier, Mike and his family moved frequently throughout his young life, but he was an Oklahoman through and through. Born in Oklahoma City, he graduated from Harding High School where he lettered in football, and he even wore crimson and cream at the University of Oklahoma for one year before transitioning to the U.S. Naval Academy. Upon his death, his services were held at Crown Heights Baptist Church, and he rests today in Memorial Park Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

According to the 1965 *Lucky Bag* yearbook, Mike always intended to pursue a career in the armed forces. As a midshipman, he particularly enjoyed competing in the intramural sports program, and he took naturally to the academic rigor of the academy, graduating in the top 25% of the class of 1965. He considered several naval service options before ultimately heading to Quantico upon commissioning.

Mike continued to excel as a Marine officer, commanding a sub unit during a six-month cruise and attending the Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, whereafter he deployed Vietnam as a Senior Advisor with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. For his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as he led his unit on May 20, 1967, Mike was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

The alma mater rings as true today as it did when each of us sang it by the Severn. Our right to wear the Navy Blue & Gold is proved by the bravery of such Sailors and Marines as Mike Grammar. It is important that we remember and celebrate this Oklahoman who paid the ultimate sacrifice to serve his country and defend his team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Braden P. Merritt".

BRADEN P. MERRITT
Chapter President
USNA Alumni Association, Oklahoma City

William Michael Grammar

Early Life Influence Stories



The Grammar Family Story

William Marcon Grammar, born in 1863, in a share cropper family, moved from Mississippi to St Joe, near Gainesville, TX. His two older boys, Dudley and Claude would run a grocery store in Gainesville from 1920 to 1934. The little guy in white is GR Grammar, Mike's

father. The big story that became part of Mike's life and inspired him was his learning that when the Depression hit in the early 1930 the uncles' store suffered as most shoppers used credit. Their neighbor's loss of work and income caused the Grammar store to eventually close. Before it closed Dudley and Claude decided to

give the food away to the people that needed it. One of Mike's High School clubs was the "Beta Club"—Let us lead by serving others."



ROW: Betty Page, Richard, Sanderson, Emma, Mrs. Givens, Robert, Lott, Willy, Carl, Emma, Barbara, Miss, Nellie, Wilma, Smith, Joyce Ann Gray, Goldie Smith, Judy Givens, Mrs. Givens, YOP ROW: Jo Ann Hayes, J. C. Baker, Carol Manning, Emma Dee Miller, Jerry Wacker, Mary Sue Frazier, Mrs. Sherron, Emma, Mrs. Souders, sponsor, Hannah Nash, Jane Nelson, Mrs. Gammere, Frederick Deeks, Stewart Zahn.



Richard, president; Emma, corresponding secretary; Jerry, secretary; who were initiated at the Morrill, January.

Betas Emphasize Service

To become a Beta Club member, a student must take part in school activities and maintain a "B" average. Through its motto, "Let Us Lead By Serving Others," the Beta Club seeks its objectives — promoting leadership, academic and moral character.

Beta Club meetings were held on the first Tuesday night of the month. Refreshments were served by the appointed committees, and something new was added . . . at each meeting a group of members acted out a short skit, which usually turned out to be hilarious.

Local Betas installed clubs in Elizabeth, Hornbeck, and Oberlin, Louisiana; contributed to the National Beta Educational Fund; and attended the State Beta Convention at the Capital House Hotel in Baton Rouge. A candy sale helped raise convention funds. They also entered a decorated car in the Fair and Homecoming parades and initiated 22 new members for the 1958-59 term.

It has become a custom at Christmas for the DeBibber Beta Club to give a Christmas party for all chapter members in this region. This year eight area clubs were invited.

LET US LEAD BY SERVING OTHERS, the Beta Club motto, was the theme of the Beta Club in the Fair Parade.

BO' Sta RO' At a whiling in ons me lan col nes no cov eng hel



William Michael Grammar

Early Life Influences

The Moses family, Charlie and Fannie, came to Oklahoma from Lebanon shortly after 1904. After stopping in Oklahoma City the Moses moved to a farm near Brinkman, Oklahoma where Mike's mother, Nemory would be born. The lessons that came from the Moses had to do with hard work and dedication to one's family and community. Nemory attended Southwestern in Weatherford, Nemory was an accomplished organist and influenced Mike to take the violin and to love music. Mike's favorite Opera was Madame Butterfly. The Moses became Pioneer Hall of Fame inductee at the Old Greer County Museum in Mangum, OK

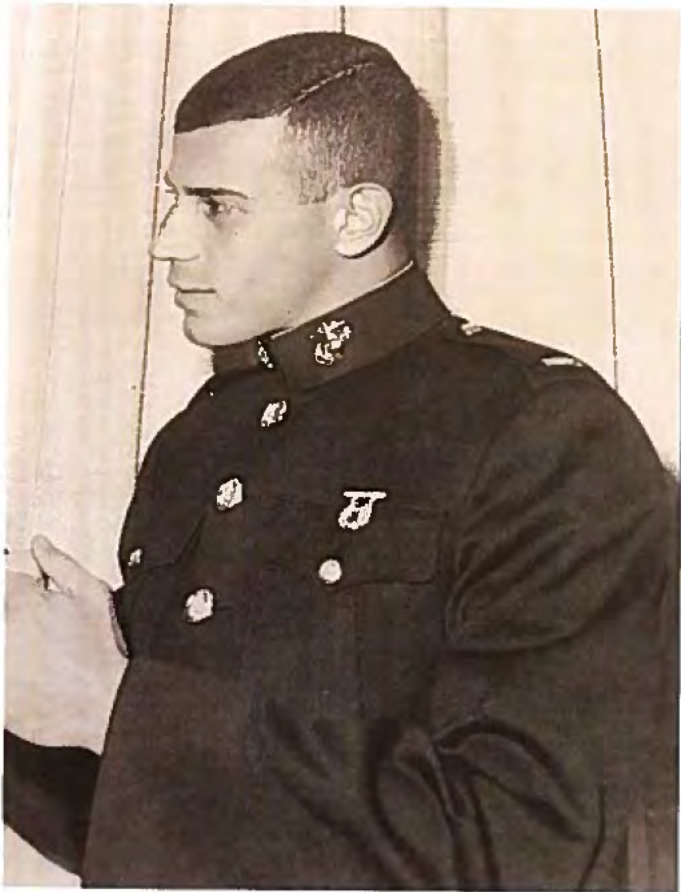


JUL • 65



Mr. Gledwell R. Grammar, pictured with Mrs. Grammar, an inventory management specialist in the Supply Management Branch of the FAA Depot, receives his retirement certificate. Grammar began his second career of 17 years with the FAA after retiring in 1969 from more than 20 years active duty with the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He was honored with a retirement party August 31, 1976, attended by his many friends at the Center. He and Mrs. Grammar plan to travel and relax.





year.
feature.
Scott Poor

Mike -
you should
and conquer the future
last eternally
similarly to the "Rock Robot"
of Kibballe - Remember Robot
Mike Darsey '60

Good - you're really contrib
sects to my Senior
works a

Mike -
you've got the potential
to give something to this
world.
I wish you all the luck
in doing it.
John Couch



Strange, Reggy Hanchey.

MIKE GRAMMAR
Math



JUDY SWEARINGEN BOB THOMPSON

Writers Win Many Honors

In the last year the Sans Souci Writers of DHS have earned many honors in creative writing.

Judy Chelette, Mike Grammar, David Ingalls, Ursula Krueger, Cam Johnson, Wilma Smith, Judy Swearingen and Bob Thompson were rated excellent or superior in the essay contest "I Speak For Democracy." Ursula won top honors.

Mary Carver, Reggy Hanchey, Shirley Haymon, Ronald Howell, Bill Whitbill, and Judy Swearingen had poems published in the National Anthology of High School Poetry. Ronald Howell and David Williams had essays selected for the National Anthology of High School Essays.

On Armed Forces Day at Fort Polk, Bob Thompson spoke in the "Americanism" contest. He won first place.

In the Lake Charles Writers Club Contest Judy Swearingen was first in poetry and Ursula Krueger third in short story; Judy Swearingen was first, Bob Thompson a finalist, and Reggy Hanchey "also ran" in the Louisiana State Poetry Contest; Judy Swearingen won first in the "space age" contest, competing with adults; and Bob Thompson was given the National Council of Teachers of English Award.

SANS SOUCI WRITERS CLUB
script chairman; Co-vice chairman; Co-president.

MEMBERS OF SANS SOUCI — SEATED: Judy Chelette, Cam Johnson, Carol Wood, Shirley Haymon. STANDING: Ronald Howell, David Ingalls, Wilma Smith, Mike Grammar, Mary Carver, Whitbill, Reggy Hanchey, David Williams.

Silver Star

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING Vietnam War

Service: Marine Corps

RANK: First Lieutenant

GENERAL ORDERS:

CITATION:



The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant William Michael Grammar (MCSN: 0-91923), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Senior Advisor to the Third Battalion, First Regiment, First Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam on 20 May 1967. When his unit was hit hard and infiltrated by an overwhelmingly large enemy force, First Lieutenant Grammar, realizing that they were hopelessly disorganized and ineffective, took immediate action to withdraw and safeguard his team. One member of the team was seriously wounded in the initial attack. In the face of intense enemy fire and almost certain death, First Lieutenant Grammar attempted to carry the wounded man to safety. When this proved impossible, the wounded man asked to be left behind and volunteered to provide covering fire. Fighting his way through the enemy and leading the remaining members of the team, he maneuvered to the edge of a village undetected. As they prepared to leave the enemy position, they encountered an enemy search party. Unhesitatingly and without regard for his own safety, he ran across an open field to draw attention from the other team member, allowing him to escape. As a result he was taken prisoner by the enemy and killed before a relief force arrived. His outstanding courage and selfless efforts in behalf of others served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Prisoner of War Medal

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING Vietnam War

Service: Marine Corps

RANK: First Lieutenant

GENERAL ORDERS:

CITATION:

First Lieutenant William Michael Grammar (MCSN: 0-91923), United States Marine Corps, was captured in operations in South Vietnam on 20 May 1967 and was held as a Prisoner of War until he was executed by the enemy later that same day.



U.S. MARINES IN VIETNAM

FIGHTING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

1967



U.S. MARINES IN VIETNAM

FIGHTING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

1967

by

Major Gary L. Telfer, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Lane Rogers, USMC

and

V. Keith Fleming, Jr.



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1984

namese forces. Continued growth of the MAAG led to the formation of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV) in February 1962 to direct the expanding effort. By the end of 1962, MACV personnel strength reached 11,000. As the level of combat increased, MACV grew accordingly, and during 1967 General Westmoreland, recognizing the value of the advisory program, requested the addition of 3,100 advisory personnel. By 31 December 1967, 7,038 U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine advisors served in the field with their Vietnamese counterparts; 76 were Marines.

Marine advisors fell into two categories. The largest contingent, 40 officers and enlisted men, served as members of the 845-man USMACV I Corps Field Advisory Element. The Naval Advisory Group (NAG) carried the other Marine advisors on its rolls. NAG Marines operated with two separate advisory components: The Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) and the Marine Advisory Unit (MAU). The Rung Sat Special Zone was a small, joint Navy-Marine advisory unit, while the Marine Advisory Unit was directed to the growing Vietnamese Marine Corps.

I Corps Advisors

Marine advisors assigned to I Corps came under the control of the Army Advisory I Corps Headquarters, located at Da Nang, and commanded by Colonel Archelaus L. Hamblen, USA. Colonel Hamblen reported to the senior advisor, I Corps, Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, who, in addition to commanding III MAF, wore the advisory "hat" in the Corps area.

The Marine advisors in I Corps, 20 officers and 20 enlisted men, spread throughout the entire I CTZ, but most of them concentrated in the 1st ARVN Division while the rest served with the 2d ARVN Division and the 51st ARVN Regiment. The I Corps advisory teams contained U.S. Marine and Army and Australian personnel.³

One of the major accomplishments of the Army-Marine advisory teams with the 1st ARVN Division involved the improvement of the division's firepower. During September 1967, the 1st ARVN Division took over a sector of the DMZ defenses, and to strengthen its defensive capabilities, the division received 106mm recoilless rifles and M-60 machine guns. Its mortar allocations increased, and late in the year the entire division was reequipped with M-16 rifles.



Photo courtesy of LtCol James R. Davis
Marine Capt James R. Davis (second from right), the senior advisor to a battalion of the 1st ARVN Infantry Division, and his assistants, pose with the battalion's commander (center). Comprising the team are a Marine lieutenant, an Australian warrant officer, Capt Davis, and an Army sergeant first class.

Five major ARVN actions during 1967 in I Corps demonstrated increased South Vietnamese unit combat effectiveness, the goal of the advisory effort. In February, 2d ARVN Division battalions engaged elements of the 1st VC and NVA Regiments in Quang Ngai Province, killing 813 enemy. To the north, 1st ARVN Division regulars accounted for 392 NVA killed during May as they worked with the 3d Marine Division during Operation Lam Son 54/Hickory.

Lam Son 54 provided an excellent example of the rigors experienced by advisors assigned to I Corps. On the night of 20 May 1967, Marine First Lieutenant William M. Grammar, senior advisor to the 3d Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st ARVN Division, was with the battalion command group. Suddenly a large North Vietnamese force lunged out of the darkness, completely overrunning the group. During the confused action which followed, enemy fire hit one of Grammar's assistants. Grammar tried to carry him to safety, but the wounded American refused, saying that he would stay behind and pro-



3d MarDiv ComdC, April 1967
Marine Capt Roger E. Knapper, an advisor to the 1st ARVN Infantry Division, inspects a well-constructed bunker at one of the division's bases in April 1967.

wide covering fire. Lieutenant Grammar, with the rest of his team, fought his way through the encircling enemy to the relative safety of a nearby village. There, an enemy search party discovered them. Grammar, trying to draw the Communists away from his group of survivors, broke into the open and ran into an open field. His efforts failed and the enemy force captured him.

Meanwhile, the 4th Battalion of the 1st ARVN Regiment received orders to go to the assistance of the survivors of the 3d Battalion. By 0600 the 4th made contact with the same enemy unit that had overrun the 3d Battalion. The battle raged all morning; close air support and artillery helped the 4th Battalion to drive the North Vietnamese from their original positions. Senior battalion advisor, Marine Captain James R. Davis, directed the supporting arms effort. At 1100, the 4th Battalion located the main enemy force near a church. The South Vietnamese launched a determined assault against the enemy position at 1300 and, despite heavy NVA automatic weapons fire and B-40 rockets, the battalion carried the Communist position. The NVA

unit broke off the engagement. The 4th Battalion consolidated the church position, where they found the body of First Lieutenant Grammar. His captors had killed him before they fled.*

Later in the year, during July, the 1st ARVN Division conducted a sweep operation, Lam Son 87, north of Hue. During the operation, the division shattered the 802d VC Battalion. The final enemy body count reached 252. The next month, in Quang Nam Province, units from the independent 51st ARVN Regiment tracked down a battalion of the 21st NVA Regiment, and killed 197. Later in the fall, during Lam Son 138 east of Quang Tri City, a 1st ARVN Division battalion smashed another NVA battalion. At the end of the day-long battle, a total of 107 North Vietnamese bodies covered the field. Marine advisors participated in all of these actions. In I Corps during 1967, South Vietnamese large-unit actions killed more than 8,000 enemy troops, as compared to 5,271 in 1966. The advisors were accomplishing their mission.

The Rung Sat Special Zone

Since the beginning of Vietnamese history, the Rung Sat, literally "forest of assassins," represented a source of vexation to the rulers of Cochin China. The Rung Sat is a dense mangrove swamp covering the 400 square miles separating Saigon from the sea. Saigon's main waterway to the South China Sea, the Long Tau River, meanders through the tangle of the Rung Sat. The area served as the hideout of countless pirates and other fugitives in the past and remained ideally suited for the Viet Minh and later the Viet Cong. The only way to move in the Rung Sat is by small, shallow draft boat, and its tidal waterways challenged navigation. Only long term residents of the Rung Sat knew its secrets, and the Viet Cong were long term residents. The primary VC threat from the Rung Sat was the possibility of sinking large shipping in the Long Tau, thereby blocking Saigon port. The VC attempted this many times, forced the South Vietnamese into an extended "cat and mouse" game of finding and expelling the Communists from their sanctuary.

As one solution to the threat posed by the Viet Cong presence in the Rung Sat, the South Vietnamese Government designated the region

*Lieutenant Grammar received a posthumous Silver Star for this action. LtCol James R. Davis. Comments on 14May81 (Vietnam Comment file, MCHC, Washington)

Lucky Bag

From the [1965 Lucky Bag](#):



WILLIAM MICHAEL GRAMMAR

Mike, an "Army Brat," rarely lived in any one place long enough to call it home. He had the dubious honor of attending about thirteen different schools on the way to receiving his high school diploma. This background must have agreed with him as it was always his intention to pursue a career in the Armed Forces. After spending a year in the University of Oklahoma, Mike had no problems with the academics at the Academy. He participated actively in intramural sports and insists that no one could have had more fun in the program than he. After giving his flight instructor a severe nervous condition with some rather original maneuvers during second class summer, he has decided his abilities might be more appreciated in the surface or sub-surface Navy. Whatever he chooses, we wish him the best of luck.

SHIPMATE



From the September-October 1967 issue of SHIPMATE:

Lt. William William M. Grammar, USMC, was killed following capture by the Viet Cong in the vicinity of Quang Tri, Vietnam, on 20 May. Services were held at Crown Heights Baptist Church, with interment in Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Lt. Grammar was born in Oklahoma City, and graduated from Harding High School where he won a letter in football. He was active in Scouting and church activities. He attended the University of Oklahoma one year before entering the Naval Academy, from where he was graduated in 1965 in the upper twenty-five percent of his class. Following completion of Basic School at Quantico, Va., he reported to Camp Lejune, N.C., where he was executive officer of G Company, 2nd Marine Division, and commanded the sub unit while on a six-month Mediterranean cruise. After attending the Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, he reported in February to Headquarters Military Assistance Command, Saigon, with duty at Quang Tri as advisor to the South Vietnamese Army.

He is survived by his widow, the former Patricia Sledd of Richmond, Va.; an infant son, Richard Alexander; his parents, Lt. Col. and Mrs. G. R. Grammar ...; two brothers, Robert E. Grammar and Richard Patrick Grammar

[REDACTED]
Mon 5/14/2018, 8:55 PM
[REDACTED]

Gentlemen,

First of all nice hearing from you all, although I wish the subject matter was more positive. For the few of you that don't know how I fit into the Mike Grammar picture, may I offer the following. I am a classmate of Mike's, a USNA 65 classmate and a fellow Marine. I knew Mike because he was from Oklahoma and with Col Andy Hesser USMC and his brother Maj. Pete Hesser, they arranged with Mike for the Governor of Oklahoma to send a National Guard KC-97 aerial refueler to Andrews Air Force Base to pick up Oklahoma and Arkansas midshipmen and bring them back home for Christmas leave. I caught a ride on that plane both ways.

The majority of USNA 65 Marines were in Basic Class 1-66 and 2-66. Skip Story and myself were injured at The Basic School and ended up in 3-66. I got to Viet Nam in September 1966 and departed Viet Nam in late September 1967. I got home in mid-October and saw a Time Magazine that had a story about Mike Grammar. As I remember it, it stated that Mike was at Quang Tri when he was captured. I think it mentioned his hands were tied behind his back and he was executed in a church.

It has been interesting to read about Mike, Dick Piatt and Ron Myers.

Warmest Regards to you all,

Mike



Hi All,

I met Mike Grammar plebe year at USNA and got to know him quite well while at The Basic School in Quantico when we dated two co-eds who were roommates at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. When we graduated from TBS in December Mike married his MWC girlfriend, Pat Sledd from Richmond, and went to Camp Lejeune for further training. I went to Pensacola, Fla, for flight training along with Dick Piatt. Dick shortly had a change of heart and took a path to become a recon Marine.

In May of 1967 Pat called me and told me that Mike had been killed in Vietnam and that Dick had been killed the month before. She asked me to escort Mike's body from Dover AFB to Oklahoma City for his funeral.

Mike was an advisor along with a US Army sergeant and an Australian warrant officer to an ARVN (Army of the Republic of VN) company that was bivouacked near the DMZ in south Vietnam. They were overrun by enemy forces in the middle of the night, killing the Aussie W.O. and sending Mike and the Army Sgt into hiding in a ravine. When they were discovered Mike dashed across the field to shelter in a home or a hut of some sort and the sergeant went south in the ravine. Mike was captured and taken as a prisoner to a church in a nearby small village - Dong Xa I believe though I can't locate it on a map. The Army sergeant evaded capture, in large part because of Mike's diversion, and was rescued by friendly forces. Those forces went to rescue Mike but he was shot in the back of the head before he could be freed. I think the enemy troops were VC as were likely a good part of Mike's ARVN company. The NVA, I believe, would have kept him as a valued prisoner and try to move him north. The details of the overrunning come from the Army sergeant, a Hispanic from the San Antonio area.

Because of the circumstances of Mike's death, his father, a retired Army Col., requested that I verify that it was indeed Mike in the closed coffin. I accompanied the mortician to do that. Mike Malone was right about the execution - shot in the back of the head with his hands tied tightly. Dover had dropped the ball - I was saddened to see that Mike was not in uniform and so the mortician dressed him in the Marine greens that I had worn from Dover AFB.

Terry Anderson



Gentlemen,


I remember Mike Grammar as a fellow Mid'n with a wry and ever present sense of humor. I don't recall being in any classes with him. He wore academic "stars" on the collar of his uniform and never appeared to sweat any of his classes.

I did not serve with him in Viet Nam.

Regretfully, I am unable to add more to either Mike Malone's or Frank Peterson's remembrances of Mike Grammar whose life was cut short by his tragic death in RVN.


Sincerely,

Bob Sullivan



There isn't much additional information about Mike that I can add. He was in the same company as Bob Sullivan and I for three years at USNA. Dick Piatt was his roommate. Roger Staubach was with us until our first class (senior) senior year when the number of companies was expanded and some were transferred to the newly created companies. Mike was in the class behind me at The Basic School in Quantico and was a member of my wedding party in November 1965. I lost touch with him after that.

Regards,
Frank Peterson



Good evening, John. I don't know if I can be of much help, but hopefully a bit. I did not know Mike really well, but well enough to know him as Mike and not Bill as so many of our other classmates continue to call him when his name is brought up among those of our classmates who have been killed while in service. My sole contact with Mike during our four years on the Severn was in a number of classrooms we shared. I remember him as an extremely good student.

How I may be able to help is two-fold. First, I noted in this string of emails that Mike's body was escorted home by Terry Anderson. I don't know whether Terry may already have been in contact with you, but I have cc'd him here knowing that he now will. Terry is my closest friend among our classmates. I don't think Terry was ever Mike's roommate, however, unless it was during our Plebe year. Terry and I were in the same company our remaining three years at USNA and during our time at The Basic School. Mike was not. Unfortunately, unless I am mistaken, Mike's roommate in the 4th Company, in which he graduated at USNA, was Dick Piatt, also KIA in RVN, very close to the time of Mike's death.

There are two other Marines from Mike's company 1st Class year who may be able to provide some help here. They are Bob Sullivan and Frank Peterson. I have cc'd them, as well. Bob, Frank, and I were all in the same company Plebe year and have stayed close, particularly me and Bob who were in the same company in RVN,

The second way I possibly may help is with a piece of information the accuracy of which I cannot confirm. About the time I learned of Mike's death in '67, maybe the same time, I was told that Mike had been executed by NVA (?), maybe VC, I don't remember which, with his hands tied behind his back. In his hands was his lighter with which he apparently was attempting to burn the ropes which bound his hands. Just another bit that may or may not have some weight with helping you achieve your goal.

Best regards,
Michael G. Malone
USNA 1965

20 Sep 2005

Copied from Virtual Wall for Richard Piatt.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/dp/PiattRW01a.htm>

I will always remember Dick and his "partner"/room-mate, Mike Grammar, as the guys responsible for my graduating from the Naval Academy, Annapolis. I was in the dorm room next to him during my plebe year. I would have given up without the firm, yet gentle, support of Dick and Mike. They were both Marines, even back then ... Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on the wall, everything green ... ooo-ra! Dick coaxed me through countless crises and losses of confidence. We were all young, but he had the wisdom of the ages. Thank you, Dick; I'll never forget you. I'll visit you again at the Wall.

From a Naval Academy company-mate and friend,

Terry Reeder, USNA '66

treeder@direcway.com

Dick was Mike Grammar's roommate. Dick would die in Vietnam on 16 April 1967 one month before Mike death. Terry Reeder, USNA 1966, died on 29 April 2016.



↑
MIKE

↑
ROOMMATE
DICK
PIATT

KIA APRIL
1967
ONE MONTH
BEFORE
MIKE



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Names in photo

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:



Subject: Re: William Michael (Mike) Grammar USNA '65

From left to right, the men in the picture are:
Bob Sullivan (USNA classmate)
Mike (USNA classmate)
Dick Emerson (USNA classmate)
Bill Hermann (my father-in-law)
Me
Bill Peterson (brother)
Don Pellechia
Dick Piatt (USNA classmate)

All of us in the photo of our generation were in Vietnam at one time or another.

Regards,
Frank

-----Original Message-----



Frank,
Excellent Picture. I recognized Mike and his roommate on the far right—Dick Piatt. (Two years later they were both gone).

Could you name the Grads in the photo from left to right? I saw each of your individual photos in the '65 Annual.

Appreciate you help!

Best regards,
John Farris

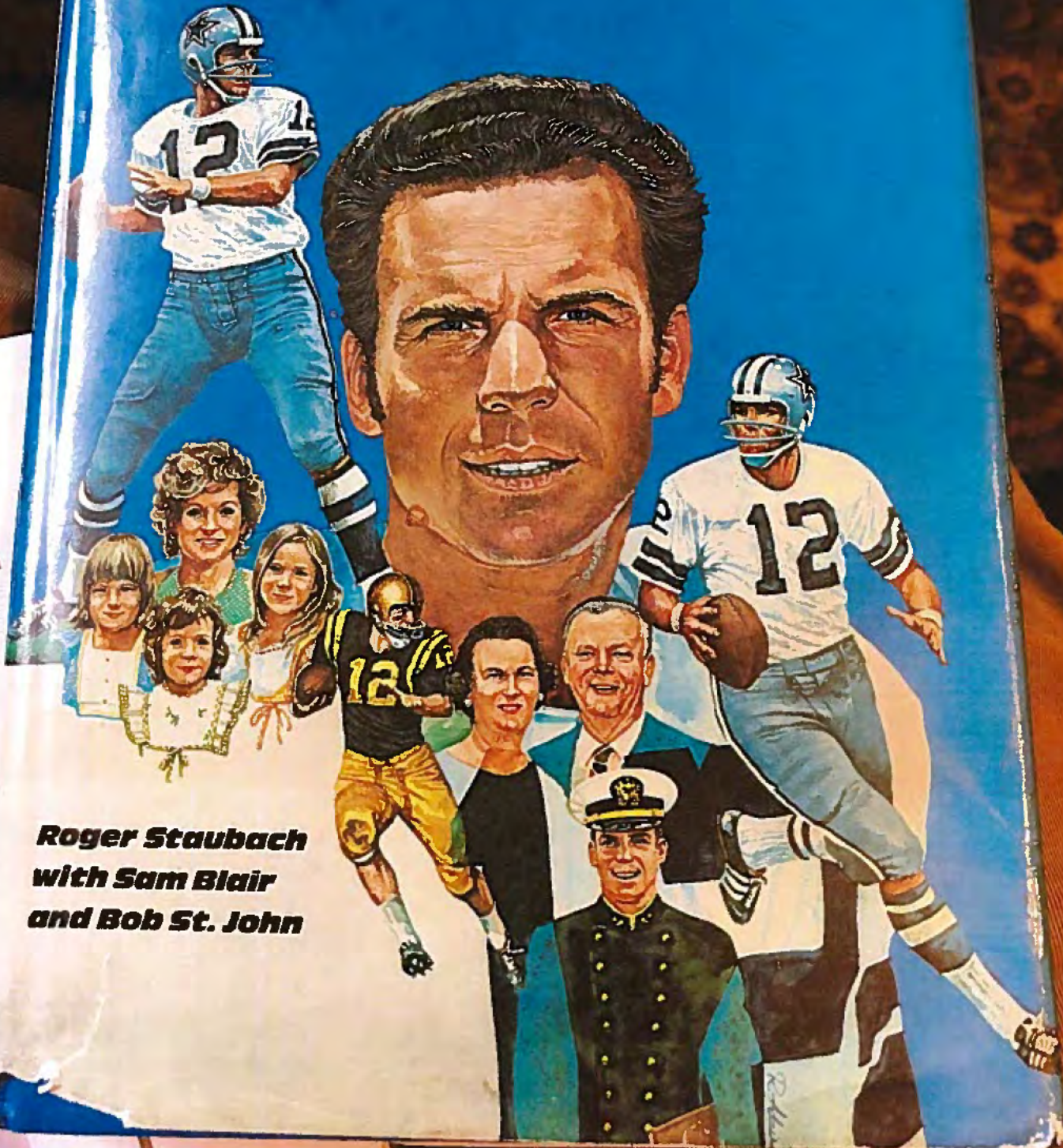
Sent from my iPhone



John,

STAUBACH

*First Down,
Lifetime To Go*



**Roger Staubach
with Sam Blair
and Bob St. John**

