

JOHN M GRASSO JR

Pfc. John M. Grasso Jr., 22, died Saturday, Nov 27, 1965, as a result of hostile action in the Republic of South Viet Nam. John was the first serviceman from New Britain to die in the Vietnam conflict.

Pfc. Grasso entered the U.S. Army on Dec. 7, 1964. After completing basic and advanced individual training, he was deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam and assigned to MACV Advisory Team 70.

At the time of his death, Pfc. Grasso and six other American soldiers were attached to the 7th ARVN Infantry Regiment, conducting combat operations in the vicinity of the Michelin Rubber Plantation, about 45 miles northwest of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). At that time, the plantation was a hotbed of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army activity. The 7th ARVN Regiment had been in contact with elements of the 272nd Viet Cong Regiment for several days. The Viet Cong made their main attack early in the morning on November 27. The fighting was intense. Trying desperately to fight off hordes of Communist soldiers charging in waves through the rubber trees, the ARVN soldiers and their American advisors fought to the last bullet. After running out of ammunition, they were quickly overrun by the Viet Cong. By 8AM that morning, Pfc. Grasso, the six other members of the American advisory team, and all of the Vietnamese soldiers of the 7th ARVN Regiment, had been killed.

Pfc. Grasso's parents received a telegram on Nov 28 from the Adjutant General's office in Washington, DC advising them of their son's death.

Survivors include his parents, John and Mary (Mortelliti) Grasso Sr., of 163 Fairview St., New Britain; two sisters, Elaine and Carol, also of 163 Fairview St.; his paternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Grasso of 137 Washington St.; and several uncles and aunts.

Pfc. Grasso attended Chamberlain School and was a 1961 graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas High School. In 1964, he graduated from the New England Technical School, Hartford, as an electronic technician. He was also a member of St. Ann Church.

His body arrived at Bradley Field, Windsor Lock at 11:00 PM on December 8 accompanied by Sgt. Carlin Seward, of the Oakland Army Terminal Escort Detachment They were met by the Grasso family, accompanied by Mayor Paul J. Manafort, Aldermen Jack A. Fusari and Theodore L. Fusaro and representatives of the Veterans Commission (Chairman Anthony J. Paige, Commissioners Joseph L. Borselle, Joseph M. O'Brien, William C. Wearne, Newman G. Provost and Richard A. Casella) and Veterans Service Director Michael J. Scricca. Also in attendance at the airport was an honor guard from the 418th Regiment, 76th Division, U.S. Army Reserve.

A State Police escort was provided from the airport to the New Britain town line, where the procession was joined by New Britain police, who escorted them to the funeral home.

Mayor Manafort ordered that flags on Municipal buildings be flown at half-staff, and requested that all other flags in the city be flown at half-staff.

Funeral services were held on December 10 at 8:00 AM at the Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home and at 9:00AM at St. Ann Church. Burial with full military honors was in St. Mary Cemetery. Celebrant of the requiem Mass was the Reverend Vincent Mortelliti of St. Donato Church, New Haven, a cousin of Pfc. Grasso. Approximately 200 pupils of St. Ann School attended the requiem Mass. Sgt. Seward, who accompanied the body from California and throughout the local services, presented the American flag to the Grasso family. Mayor Paul J. Manafort and Alderman Theodore L. Fusaro were among many city officials present.

SAMMY LEE THOMPSON • TERRY LEE BLYTH
DALE L FUNK • ARTHUR M GORDON • BE
DREN • DONALD R BONKO • PORTER T DAV
ISMAN • JOHN M GRASSO Jr • PHILLIP J VA
cNEELY • TONY VALE • CARL A GRAY • EDWA
AS O GREEN • VIRGIL D GRIFFY • MICHAEL C
ER E BECKER • TYRONE S PANNELL • STEPHEN
B ALISTINI

MEL DIAZ • GARY P DIETZ • LEONARD E DORNAK • ISHMIEL EADDY • PHILLIP J EBERHARDT •
ORCE W ELLIS • ALTON J FENNELL • RICHARD W FISCHER • RONALD L FOX • ROGER C FOXWORTH •
ANN W FREEMAN • DANIEL R FULWIDER • ENRIQUE LORENZO GARCIA Jr • VICENTE GARZA • DONALD W KEEP
HAEL J HALL • ROBERT E L HAMILTON • HOWARD E HANSON Jr • RONALD L HETLAND • JOHN R HULBERT •
OLD E HUMPHREY • DONNEY L JACKSON • BOBBY W JOBE • BOBBY RAY JONES • HALCOTT P JONES Jr •
MAS A CRIMES • STEPHEN B KIRSCHNER • RICHARD G LIGHTBOURNE • PAUL J LIVELY • MICHAEL D MARKS •
IG N MAY • JAMES I MILLER • JONATHAN MISKIMMON Jr • RAINER K M • GLEN M MORRISON •
ID D NICHOLSON • JOHN C NIEDERMAYER • MARTIN E O'GRADY • O'NEAL • MICHAEL P OLIVER
NETT W OLSON • JERRY PATRICK • RONNIE D PENDERGRAFT • JUAN • LYDE R PHILLIPS •
ES A PINTAR • MILLARD E PRICE Jr • GUY J PROTANO Jr • JERRY E PRY •
PH O RODRIGUEZ • RICHARD A RUMBLEY • LOUIS L SCHAUTTEET Jr • FRED •
OLD W SIGMON • CHARLES H SMITH • HALLIE W SMITH • STEPHEN • IRAM • J C STORY •
ALLACE C SHAFEEED

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

JOHN M GRASSO Jr

PFC - E3 - Army - Selective Service
MACV Advisors
22 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on Jul 01, 1943
From NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT
His tour of duty began on May 26, 1965
Casualty was on Nov 27, 1965
SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
ROMAN CATHOLIC

Messages from the Vietnam Memorial/Washington DC

C H
GREET THEM EVER WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS. TIME WILL NOT DIM THE GLORY OF THEIR
DEEDS.

Saturday, November 13, 2004

Sgt Maj, brother in arms
With the going down of the sun, we will remember them.
Monday, April 04, 2005