

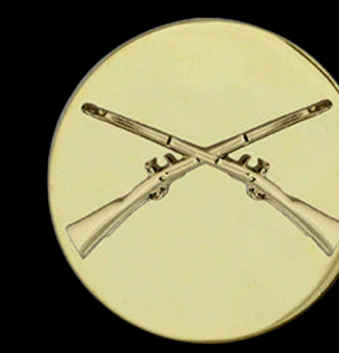


CALVERT JAMES JOHNSON

(APRIL 17, 1944 - NOVEMBER 8, 1966)



Sergeant



Infantry



1st Battalion,
28th Infantry

Years of Service: 1962 - 8 NOV 1966

Medals & Awards:

Purple Heart
Army Good Conduct Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Service Medal
Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

One Service Stripe
One Overseas Service Bar
Combat Infantry First Award
Infantry Shoulder Cord



Sergeant Calvert James Johnson began his brief tour of duty in Vietnam with the United States Army on October 17, 1966. He served with Company B, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, as a Light Weapons Infantryman, in Tay Ninh Province. In addition to a Purple Heart, Johnson was posthumously awarded a Silver Star Medal for gallantry, "extraordinary courage," and "unswerving dedication" during his final mission. According to the citation, SGT Johnson's "repelled numerous insurgent assaults" with "complete disregard for his own personal safety," and "unhesitatingly moved from position to position," encouraging and leading his men "in close combat against numerically superior hostile forces."

Calvert James Johnson, known as "Jimmy," was born in Lynchburg to Totsie Emmerson and

Calvert Johnson. A week after he was born, his father was shipped overseas with the US Army during World War II and was killed in action just a few months later. Totsie moved the family to live with her parents, Martin and Mary Ring, on Monroe Street. During his youth, Jimmy participated in activities at the YMCA-operated Camp Bibee on Buggs Island Lake, including swimming, horse-back riding, archery, and riflery activities. Before joining the Army National Guard in 1961, he attended E. C. Glass High School. Jimmy's mother received three letters from her son in November of 1966. In these, he described the war as a "living hell." "I'm going to look to God and maybe he will see me home," he wrote in his final letter, "God is the only one that can get you out of here alive." Jimmy also asked a special favor of his older sister: "tell Mary to ask Jerry Falwell to say a prayer for me," he wrote, "I need all the help I can get."