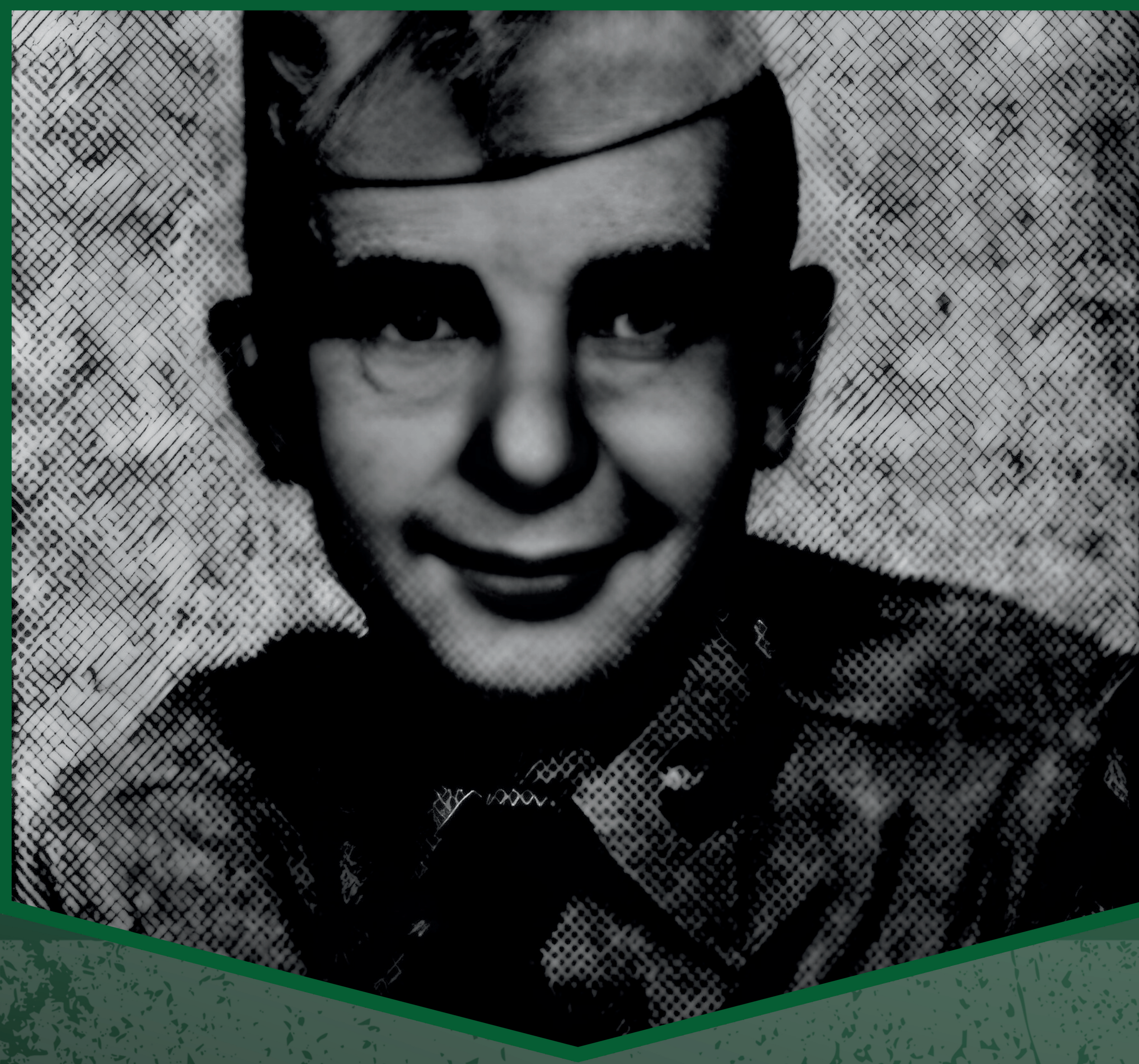




# ELWOOD LAYTON HOUSTON

(APRIL 27, 1932 - JULY 6, 1968)



Staff  
Sergeant



Armor  
Crewman



23rd Infantry  
Division



7th Infantry  
Division



A Company,  
1st Squadron,  
1st Cavalry

Years of Service: 1 JAN 1956 - 6 JUL 1968

## Medals & Awards:

Bronze Star

Purple Heart

Army Good Conduct Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Four Service Stripes

One Overseas Service Bar

Armor Shoulder Cord



By his conduct, I can only imagine God sent a limo for him.\* Nicknamed "Sam" by the men that served with him, **Staff Sergeant Houston** was held in the highest regard. His fellow soldiers remembered him as quiet and brave, with a "laid-back way of speaking." "You could count on him in the field," one commented, "he was never cruel or brutal. It was my privilege to serve with him." SSG Houston dedicated 13 years to the U.S. Army, serving in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and was awarded a Bronze Star for heroism and outstanding achievement in 1968. On his last mission, he served as the Tank Commander for a M48A3 tank in the 3rd Platoon, leading a sweep of what was then the borderland between the Quang Tin and Quang Nam provinces.

Born in Lynchburg, SSG Houston lived on Cabell Street in the historic Daniel's Hill neighborhood and was a member of Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church. He worked briefly as a deliveryman for a grocery store before joining the Virginia National Guard. In 1955, he enlisted with the Army. For the Houston family, military service during wartime was a family legacy. SSG Houston's father, Frank L. Houston, was a veteran of World War I, while his brothers collectively toured in World War II and Korea, as well as Vietnam. SSG Houston was survived by his wife, Jeanette Ann Sanders Houston, two daughters, Cheryl Ann Houston (Dearing) and Teresa Diana Houston (Spickard), and a son, Elwood Layton Houston, Jr.

\*Quotes from Fold3 by Houston's grandson, Andrew Dearing