

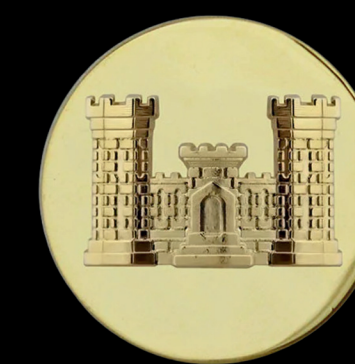


JOHN FRANCIS STEWART

(MAY 17, 1945 - MAY 2, 1969)



Corporal



Engineer



Parachutist



Expert
Marksman



1st Brigade, 101st
Airborne Division



E Company,
2nd Battalion,
506th Infantry

Years of Service: 9 JUL 1968 - 2 MAY 1969

Medals & Awards:

Bronze Star

Purple Heart

Army Presidential Unit Citation

Meritorious Unit Commendation

National Defense Service Medal

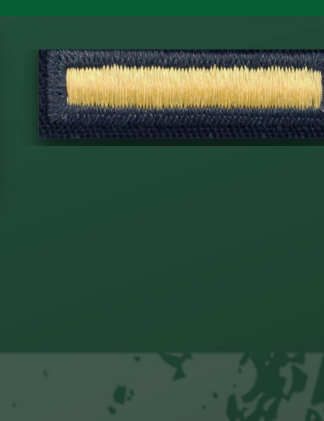
Vietnam Service Medal

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

One Overseas Service Bar

Belgian Fourragere Shoulder Cord



Corporal John Francis Stewart began his tour of duty with the United States Army in 1968. A paratrooper and expert marksman, CPL Stewart served as a combat engineer with the 506th Infantry, C Company, 101st Airborne Division, 2nd Battalion. The 101st Airborne, or "Screaming Eagles," were also described as "the nomads of Vietnam," because they fought in numerous operations all over the country. Specializing in air assault operations, the Screaming Eagles were considered one of the most effective units, with a sterling reputation for rapid deployment. Unfamiliar with eagles, the North Vietnamese called the 101st Airborne the "Chicken Men." Their soldiers were warned to avoid "Chicken Men" at all costs because any engagement with them would result in defeat. Following his final mission with the Screaming Eagles in the Thừa Thiên province, CPL Stewart was awarded a Bronze Star Medal.

John Stewart was born in 1945, to Lucille Williamson and James E. Stewart, of Gordon Street. A Lynchburg native and Roman Catholic, Stewart was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church. Among other hobbies, he enjoyed trout fishing in the Pedlar River. Following in the footsteps of his two older brothers, John Stewart played for the basketball team (the Gaels) at Holy Cross School. He was one of 20 Lynchburg-area players nominated for the Associated Press all-state team in his senior year. After graduating in 1964, Stewart attended Campbell College in Buies Creek, North Carolina, where he had been awarded a basketball scholarship. According to a family friend, Harold B. Singleton, John could have completed his college education, but decided to join the military "to get it over with." Singleton described Stewart as one of the "typical quiet young men who don't say much but do a great deal."