



JOHN WAYNE DAVIDSON

(FEBRUARY 22, 1945 - MAY 19, 1968)



Marine
Lance
Corporal



Rifleman,
Rifle Sharpshooter,
Pistol Expert



7th Marine
Regiment



1st Marine
Division



C Compy,
1st Battalion,
7th Marines

Years of Service: 1965 - 19 MAY 1968

Medals & Awards:

Purple Heart

Combat Action Ribbon

Navy Presidential Unit Citation

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation

National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



After joining the United States Marines in 1965, **Lance Corporal John Davidson** completed eight weeks of training at Parris Island, SC, in November of the following year. He began his tour in Vietnam in January, 1968, and served four months as a rifleman with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, in the Quang Nam province. LCPL Davidson held the National Defense Service Medal and was awarded a Purple Heart six days before his final mission. In 1970, he was posthumously awarded the Military Merit Medal and Gallantry Cross with Palm. The citation for this award described him as a "serviceman of courage and rare self-sacrifice," who "fought on to the end in every mission and set a brilliant example for his fellow soldiers."

John Davidson was born in Lynchburg to Pauline and Thomas Rudolph, an employee of Craddock-Terry Shoe Corporation. When his parents divorced in 1952, he remained in Lynchburg with his mother, and maintained membership at Court Street United Methodist Church and the YMCA. Davidson played basketball at E. C. Glass High School, and worked as a brick layer after graduation. In April, 1965, Davidson married Linda Carolyn Hammock of Lynchburg. During Davidson's tour of duty, she resided in Norfolk with their son, Tony Van Davidson. John Davidson was cherished by family members, including an older sister, Linda Faye Davidson. In a posting on Wall of Faces, Davidson's niece, Tina Mylum, remembered her mother speaking fondly of John and the "special relationship they had as brother and sister."