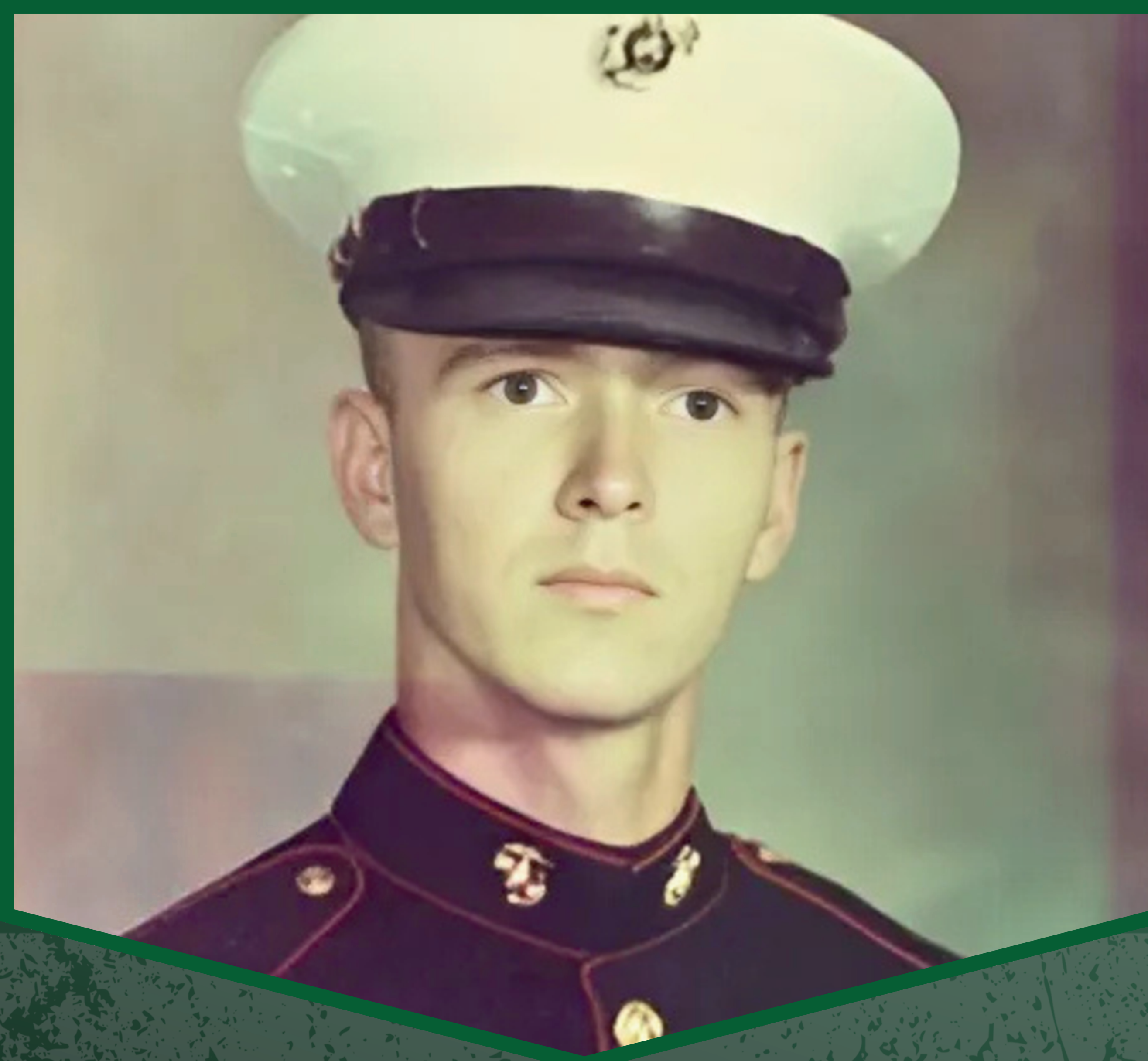




# RICHARD WAYNE CRICKENBERGER

(OCTOBER 18, 1947 - MAY 26, 1968)



Marine  
Private  
First Class



A Company,  
3rd Combat  
Engineer Battalion

Years of Service: AUG 1967 - 26 MAY 1968

## Medals & Awards:

Purple Heart

Combat Action Ribbon

Navy Unit Commendation

National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



**Private First Class Richard Crickenberger** enlisted in the Marines in August, 1967, and completed his basic training at Parris Island, SC. After finishing additional training at Camp Lejeune, NC, PFC Crickenberger began his tour as a combat engineer in the Quang Tri Province in February, 1968. On his final mission, just a few months later in May, PFC Crickenberger entered Khe Sanh as a mine specialist with a road sweep team.

Born in Lynchburg in 1947, Richard "Dicky" Crickenberger, was the son of Bessie Trevey and Orville Raymond Crickenberger. He and his family were members of First Baptist Church on Court Street. As a boy, Crickenberger participated in city recreation activities, including contests and Easter Egg hunts at West End playground. Later in the early 1960s, he was a contestant in the Soap Box Derby. An honor roll student and

member of the track team at E. C. Glass High School, Crickenberger also participated in the Glass Palette Art Club, the Spanish Club, the Stock Holders Club, and the Distributive Education Club, which focused on leadership development. In 1966, he enrolled in the Youth Industry program of the YMCA, where he learned about the economic inner workings of local industrial plants, including the Lynchburg Foundry, Craddock-Terry Shoe Corporation, and Chapstick Corporation. His classmates described Crickenberger as a "sweetheart" and an upbeat person, who was well regarded by teachers and students. A neighbor, Bob Griggs, remembered him as a "good friend and kind person." After graduating in 1967, Crickenberger married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Crawford, on August 19, 1967. Their son, Richard Wayne Crickenberger, II, was born May 7, 1968.