



## *In Rememberance & Gratitude*

# CAREY ALLEN FOSNAUGH

*May 12, 1949 – January 23, 1970*

Carey was never a Ranger or a LRRP, yet represents men to whom all Rangers owe a debt of gratitude and respect. Carey was killed in action on January 23, 1970 while a member of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Company, A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of 35<sup>th</sup> Inf Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Fate placed Carey exactly where he needed to be when he was needed most, for the sake of others in danger. He died in the most heroic and noble way a man can be asked – to intentionally place yourself in mortal danger while aiding another. Carey Fosnaugh stands as a symbol representing all the unknown brave men who came to the aid of our Rangers when their lives were in peril. At times fighting from the air or next to us on the ground, we seldom had the opportunity to sufficiently thank or honor them. Whether they actively faced the enemy through gunsights, dropped bombs from high above or fired artillery rounds from afar, we owe them all a debt that can never be fully paid. For Carey and all of the heroes who came to our aid, we 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division LRRP / Rangers thank you and offer our eternal gratitude.



*Carey Allen Fosnaugh – Proud member of “The Herd” - 1969*

Carey was part of the reactionary force summoned to come to the aid of four-man Ranger Team Romeo-28, out of An Khe, who were engaged in an active gun battle with a numerically greater enemy force. R-28, with two of their members mortally wounded, saw the remaining two Rangers continuing to engage, against diminishing odds, desperate for intervention, divine or otherwise. The saviors that day were to be 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt of A, 2/35<sup>th</sup>. The platoon was inserted knowing they were entering a live gunfight and likely to sustain severe casualties of their own. Initially they moved, in force, to search for the besieged Ranger Team. It was during this perilous search that Carey and his platoon mates came under fire. Carey Fosnaugh fell, mortally wounded, yet his platoon would not be denied the accomplishment of their mission to rescue the remaining Rangers. With overwhelming air support and the courage of the many men on the ground, R-28 was ultimately extracted - Rangers Billy Bartholomew and Dean Borneman KIA and 2 WIA.



*2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of 35<sup>th</sup> Inf Regiment – “Cacti”*

Carey was chosen by James Jerome Fosnaugh (1919–2004) and Virginia Evalyn Shoaf Fosnaugh (1919-2012) to be their adopted son. Both Carey’s parents were born in Indiana but chose to live their lives in Willshire, OH after their marriage in April 1941. They were to have two wonderful children; Carey born in 1949, adopted as an infant, and his sister Kandace Fosnaugh Stewart adopted as a teen after the death of Carey. Carey’s father James enlisted in the US Army and served from Sep 1942 to Dec 1945 defending people whose nations were over-run by the Axis enemy. Can it be a surprise, then, that the warrior spirit permeating the household of Carey’s childhood would guide him to the treacherous Central Highlands of Vietnam to continue the legacy begun by his father? Carey lived his short life in OH, graduating from Parkway High School of Rockford, OH in 1968. The following February, he entered the Army attending Basic Training at Ft. Gordon, GA. followed by AIT Infantry Training at the infamous “Tigerland” of Ft. Polk, LA. In October 1968, shortly after graduation, Carey married his HS sweetheart Carol Ann Miller Fosnaugh (1950), undoubtedly with the intentions and hope of raising a family of their own in Willshire. As many of America’s best discovered, the Central Highlands would not wait. Carey’s young widow, Carol Ann, was, years later, to discover love again and with her husband raised two daughters who then blessed them with 4 grandchildren. It is a joy she deserved and the fulfillment of the dream denied Carey when he answered the call to duty in the harsh jungles of Vietnam.



Carol Ann and Carey – 1968 wedding day

In the 4<sup>th</sup> ID Replacement Depo, Carey, an 11B, Light Weapons Infantryman, was assigned to 2/35<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was to become a member of “The Herd”. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of A Co., he was to form fast friends who would fill him with the sense of relative security found in large numbers of heavily armed professional warriors. One of his closest friends, Bob Blackwell, lamented many years later, *“After first meeting at the 4th Repo, we became best buddies and shared many conversations over the next few months. We talked about the obvious things 20 year-olds talk about, cars, women, sports, family, stupid things we did growing up. But also, we talked about what we wanted to do when we got out of Vietnam: what we wanted to do for a career, families we would raise, and good times we would have.”* Like many units in Vietnam, you earned respect not by who you were, or where you came from, but from who you are. Carey quickly earned the respect of those who knew him best, his platoon mates.



Carey Fosnaugh and Bob Blackwell - 1969

The small Parkway High School served the combined communities of Rockford and Willshire, graduated a senior class of only 83 students in 1968. Carey and Carol Ann were but two. Nevertheless, this tiny enclave of patriotism saw 3 of its alumni KIA in Vietnam. The small community instituted a permanent memorial scholarship in the names of Carey, William Lee Miller and Benny James Sapp – insuring their legacy of helping others endures. The classmates and community erected a memorial for the three heroes and on Memorial Day, 2014 listened with pride as Carey’s widow, Carol Ann, proudly spoke at the dedication. A grateful nation continues to honor Carey with his name inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial “Wall”, Panel 14W - Line 61.



*Monument erected by grateful HS classmates & Community*