

HAROLD JOHN FALDERMEYER**Class 30A-67**

**HAROLD JOHN FALDERMEYER
is honored on Panel 1W, Row 23 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

**Full Name: HAROLD JOHN
FALDERMEYER**
**Wall Name: HAROLD J
FALDERMEYER**
Date of Birth: 11/23/1947
Date of Casualty: 5/11/1972
Home of Record: ROCKLAND
County of Record: SULLIVAN COUNTY
State: NY
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: BINH LONG



CPT Faldermeyer was assigned to the 21st Division Combat Assistance Team (DCAT), Advisory Team 51 as an advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, when he was killed in action on May 11, 1972. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

From The Battle of An Loc by James H. Willbanks

For the better part of three months in 1972, a desperate struggle raged between 3 North Vietnamese divisions (estimated at over 36,000 troops) and the greatly outnumbered South Vietnamese defenders, assisted by their U.S. Army advisers. What would prove to be the longest siege of the war, the Battle of An Loc would result in horrendous losses on both sides and would culminate with South Vietnamese forces blocking the North Vietnamese thrust toward the South Vietnamese capital in Saigon.

Although this battle occurred after the high point of American commitment in Vietnam, American forces were active and key participants in the action. The American advisory effort had become increasingly more important as American combat troops were withdrawn. During the Battle of An Loc, American advisers on the ground, working in consonance with American air power, would prove to be the key ingredients to the South Vietnamese victory.



Distinguished Service Cross Citation

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Harold John Faldermeyer, Captain (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with 21st DCAT, Advisory Team 51, Military Assistance Command Vietnam. Captain Faldermeyer distinguished himself on 11 May 1972 while serving as Advisor, 2d Battalion, 32d Regiment, 21st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. On this date the 2d Battalion, which had been in heavy contact for two days without re-supply, was on an offensive operation against a firmly entrenched North Vietnamese Army Regiment to open Highway 13 to relieve the tightening ring of enemy forces around the beleaguered friendly forces at An Loc. Captain Faldermeyer, with disregard for his own safety, repeatedly throughout the day, exposed himself to enemy fire to direct a series of deadly effective tactical airstrikes against the enemy positions. At approximately 1030 hours the 2d Battalion was attacked by at least one NVA reinforced battalion. Captain Faldermeyer, as the ground controller for U.S. air assets, with single minded determination to accomplish the mission and at great risk to his life, moved under heavy enemy mortar fire across Highway 13, to a vantage point from which to direct and coordinate friendly airstrikes. His position was extremely perilous as he was exposed on three sides with the remainder of his unit across Highway 13. Despite intense enemy mortar and rocket fire, Captain Faldermeyer remained at this position. Captain Faldermeyer's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

HQ US Army, Vietnam
MACV Support Command
General Order No. 1924 (August 19, 1972)

Fellow Officers



Ed Mihalacki and Hank Faldermeyer at Officer Candidate School Fort Sill

Harold (Hank) Faldermeyer and I were classmates at Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School. We were friends and in the same platoon of Echo Battery. Hank was in his second tour as an ARVN (Army of the Republic of VietNam) adviser when he was killed.

From a friend, classmate, and fellow officer,
Ed Mihalacki
Mt Pleasant, PA
27 Dec 2006



A Good Friend

Harold and I graduated from the same OCS battery in Ft Sill, OK in 1967. I served with Harold at Ft Bragg, NC in 1967-1968. I was assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps and I think Harold was in the 82nd Airborne at the time. I deployed to South Vietnam in August 1968 and was unaware that Harold had been killed until I visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall on Veteran's Day in 1990. That day I found that three of my classmates died in Vietnam. From what I remember, Harold completed a prior deployment to Vietnam and was killed in his second deployment.

Donald Fithian, Jr.
Personal Friend
865 Loggerhead Lane
Summerland Key, FL 33042
January 10, 2005