

is honored on Panel 14E, Row 115 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: MORTON ELMER TOWNES
JR
Wall Name: MORTON E TOWNES JR
Date of Birth: 10/31/1941
Date of Casualty: 2/3/1967
Date of Death: 2/3/1967
Home of Record: MOBILE
State: AL
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: LAM DONG



1LT Townes served with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery. During a raid that the 101st Airborne Division was conducting in February of 1967, his forward observer team was tasked to support a South Vietnamese Special Forces mission.

Due to his experience and professionalism, 1LT Townes actually led the South Vietnamese Special Forces team. The team encountered an ambush and several soldiers were seriously wounded and several were killed. 1LT Townes called for and guided in a MEDEVAC to evacuate the dead and wounded. By the time the MEDEVAC helicopter arrived, 1LT Townes had died from wounds sustained during the ambush. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions on that day. 1LT Townes and the other members of his FO team were the first combat losses for 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery in Vietnam.

In December 2003, Townes Hall, Headquarters for the 1st Battalion 30th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Sill was dedicated in his honor.

A Great Candidate Officer

Mort was our Bn. Cdr. in OCS at Ft. Sill in 1965. While I was unsuccessful in getting a commission, I well remember Mort and his style of leadership. So many of what was Class 10 and 11 of 1965 are inscribed here with Mort. God Bless them.

Posted by: Richard A. Stender
November 15, 2002

Just a good friend

Townes was my little brother in Officer Candidate School. He was married with children but I never met them. We were in the same artillery battalion. I had just transferred out of the battery he was assigned to so I only saw him a few times in base camp. He was a great guy both in OCS and afterwards. I tried to contact his family after he died but kept running into stonewalls and finally gave up. My prayers are with him and his family

Posted by: Joe Fleming
June 1, 1999

From the Virtual Wall

Mort Townes was the son of a General Officer, but chose to attend OCS rather than West Point. While supporting a combined operation his FO team was ambushed. Mort was severely wounded but continued to direct artillery fire and refused medical attention until the rest of his team was treated. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions. Lost in the same action were SGT Harold Eugene Lee and SP4 Raymond Carl Davis.

Morton Elmer Townes, Jr will be remembered by many. In December 2003, Townes Hall, Headquarters for the 1st Battalion 30th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Sill was dedicated in his honor.



1LT Morton E. Townes Jr.



1LT Townes served the 1-30 FA with distinction during the Vietnam conflict. He served with the battalion for two years and was killed in action in Vietnam. He was assigned to Bravo Battery, 1-30 FA. During a raid that the 101st Airborne Division was conducting in February of 1967 in the Lam Dong Province, his forward observer team was tasked to support a South Vietnamese Special Forces mission. Due to his experience and professionalism, 1LT Townes actually led the South Vietnamese Special Forces team. The team encountered an ambush and several soldiers were seriously wounded and several were killed. 1LT Townes called for and guided in a MEDEVAC to evacuate the dead and wounded. By the time the MEDEVAC helicopter arrived, 1LT Townes had died from wounds sustained during the ambush. 1LT Townes and the other members of his FO team were the first combat losses for 1-30 FA in Vietnam.

Morton E. Townes Jr.
Mobile, Alabama
31 October 1941
3 February 1967
LZ DOG
Lam Dong Province
Panel 14E - Row 115

Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Local General's Son Decorated for Valor Posthumously

1st Lt. Morton Townes, Jr., who was killed in action three months ago in South Vietnam, was decorated posthumously recently at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio.

Accepting a Silver Star and Purple Heart was the lieutenant's widow, Margaret Ann. The presentation was made by Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Dunn, commander of the Fourth Army.

Lieutenant Townes was the son of Brig. Gen. (retired) and Mrs. Morton E. Townes of 3622 Pebble Beach Drive, Farmers Branch.

The young lieutenant was killed after he and his American companions, and South Vietnamese troops fighting with them, came under attack by the Viet Cong.

The citation for the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor, read in part:

"He and his observation party were on patrol as part of a larger force when an artillery round was exploded against the party as it approached an enemy position.

"Lieutenant Townes, with complete disregard for his own welfare, concerned himself solely with obtaining medical attention for those of his party who were wounded. Although suffering from a severe leg wound himself, he made his way to the radio, and finding it still operational, called to his unit to inform it that the party had been hit."

The gravely wounded lieutenant worked the radio for almost half an hour under the enemy attack to call in helicopters to carry out the dead, the dying and wounded.

"His efforts," the citation read, "were directly responsible for saving the lives of several South Vietnamese, who were part of the friendly force participating in the operation."

Mrs. Townes said that her husband and five other Americans alongside the South Vietnamese were killed in the battle which took the lieutenant's life.

"They were the only Americans with the unit out there," she said.

Lieutenant Townes was a career man in the Army. He joined five years ago after attending Texas A&M University and Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.

He had been in South Vietnam since last October.

"Back in December he was presented the Vietnamese Paratroop Wings and he was really proud of those," Mrs. Townes said. "They are hard to earn, you know."

The lieutenant was a forward observer with the 30th U. S. Artillery when he was killed.

In addition to his wife, the lieutenant is survived by two young sons, Michael, 2, and Scott, 9 months old, and his parents.