

ROBERT CARROL WRIGHT**Class 9-69**

is honored on Panel 15W, Row 121 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: ROBERT CARROL WRIGHT
Wall Name: ROBERT C WRIGHT
Date of Birth: 12/13/1947
Date of Casualty: 1/2/1970
Home of Record: ELK CITY
County of Record: BECKHAM COUNTY
State: OK
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 2LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: QUANG NGAI



Second Lieutenant Robert C. Wright was assigned to A Battery, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery and he served with B Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, as an Artillery Forward Observer. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism on Hill 285 near the town of Duc Pho.

Bob Wright, I'll Always Remember You

Bob was a forward observer who worked for me in the 6th Battalion, 11 Field Artillery (LZ Debbie). He was assigned to A Battery. He was a doer, always on top of any situation...well liked by seniors and subordinates, Bob was technically and tactically proficient...he knew his job and the seriousness of what he was responsible for. After more than 35 years, I still see his smile..."can do Boss". His death a real shock...I had talked to him just a few hours before he was killed in action. What an officer to give his life for his fellow soldiers. May God bless you Bob.

Posted by: Paul Lewis
Relationship: 6th Battalion, 11 FA, Americal
March 3, 2008

Salute the Fallen Hero

Bob and I were part of a handful of young brash OCS candidates tossed together by chance who somehow bonded into a team that helped one another make it to the end. Bob was almost a home town boy training at Ft. Sill while most of us were miles from home. He ran faster, jumped higher and laughed louder and made sure I never stopped believing we would all make it through. I took my two daughters to visit the Wall and couldn't explain to them why I cried when we touched his name. Bob would have loved my girls. He went to Nam and they sent me to Korea along with four others in our group. When the Stars and Stripes reported him KIA the world stood still for me and the others. I live nearby to the Wall these days and I like to walk down along the path sometimes at night usually in daylight and touch his name and whisper is was not in vain.

Posted by: Patrick E. Patterson
Relationship: We served together
February 28, 2003

From the wall-usa.com

Friend

Still, not a day goes by that I don't think of him. He'd be 60 now, but I'm sure he'd be the same. A good friend.

Joe Reynoso
classmate OCS class 9-69
2445 N. Hayden Scottsdale AZ 85257
Jul 14, 2008

Bob Wright was one of the most likable young officers I have ever met. Loyal to the max, there wasn't anything he wouldn't do for superior or subordinate. He was killed early morning 2 Jan 70. He had been a FO, subsequently assigned as a FDO in A/6/11 FA. A platoon of M101A1 105mm howitzers "jumped" from Debbie to a FB. Under ground attack and RTO wounded, Bob sacrificed himself for the RTO by advancing to a secondary fire position. He was mortally wounded by AK47 round. My friend John Michitsch (now, 1999, a Major General) identified Bob after med-evac to Duc Pho. Bob was a red haired good ole boy from Oklahoma. He was recommended for Medal of Honor by downgraded to Silver Star (Distinguished Service Cross). A fine young Man.

Paul Lewis
he was FO, I was FSO. 6/11 FA Duc Pho.
Route 1, Box 467-L
Lake Butler, FL 32054
February 11, 1999

Robert Carrol Wright

Bob Wright came to A Battery after serving as an FO. It was to be an easier part of his tour of duty. When we had to send an advance party of seven with the infantry to a hill several miles away, he was selected to go. He marched to the hill and supervised the preparations for three 105's to arrive the next day. The position was overrun that night. I was supposed to take his place the next morning. He was a fine officer.

William Hoagland
Commanding Officer
7253 Siena Way
Boulder, CO 80301
May 29, 2002

I remember us receiving our orders at the end of OCS. He showed me his girl friend's picture and made an eerie comment that he didn't think he would be coming back. That moment has stayed with me. After returning to Ft. Sill, I remember a post order that awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross, posthumously. I am proud to have known him.

Randall Buhler
cubicle mate OCS class 9-69
Sterling, CO 80751
December 06, 2003

This page recaptures memories for me about Robert. I served in C Battery, 6th Bn, 11th Arty. Robert would sometimes come to the battery and he and I became friends. He was very knowledgeable about many subjects. In fact, I still owe him a beer. We had a bet about who sang "At the Hop." I lost the bet, I said "Dion and the Belmont's" and he said "Danny and the Juniors." He invited me to "visit" him at his position and I was going to bring him a cold beer. However, I was unable to go to the field that week, and it was the week he was killed. I was stunned and shocked. Not only did I lose a friend, but I also realized that I could have been a casualty. I haven't thought of that moment for over 30 years. Reading this tribute to him rekindles my sorrow about his death. He was a wonderful, spirited person. He had so much to contribute and he did - the ultimate. I am honored to have been his friend.

Bill Biggs
Box 126, Axtell, KS 66403
27 Mar 2003

2LT Wright and PFC D'Angelico

In late 1969, 2LT Robert C Wright rescued one of the B Company troops, SP4 Joey D'Angelico, who had been swept away while crossing a river.

On 25 December 1969, B/4/3rd Infantry, began an offensive "search and destroy" mission in the coastal area around the small town of Duc Pho. Sizeable enemy forces were known to be in the area, and signs of them were everywhere, but little direct contact was made during the first week of the operation.

At 1400 (2 PM), 01 Jan 1970, B Company was directed to plan to take up a Night Defensive Position (NDP) in a location which would allow them to join with D Company not later than 0900 on 02 January. The Company Commander decided that the high ground of Hill 285 near Duc Pho would be suitable for the NDP. Bravo 4/3 arrived at Hill 285 before sundown and settled in.

At 2030 (8:30 PM) the enemy struck Bravo 4/3 with vigor, using mortar and ground forces. The battle raged through much of the night before the enemy withdrew at 0430 on 02 Jan. Although the NVA/VC force had suffered a major defeat and heavy casualties, seven Americans were dead and 10 wounded. Among the dead were both 2LT Wright and PFC D'Angelico.

2LT ROBERT CARROL WRIGHT LISTED AS KIA with Gun shot wounds to back and chest was just assigned to Alpha Battery as FDO. Bravo Company 4-3 Infantry OPCON to 4-21 Infantry in action at Hill 285 at 821286 under heavy mortar and ground attack from a Battalion size force results 7 US KIA and 11 US WHA 2330hrs January 2, 1970. Enemy results 39 NVA KIA, CIA 10 AK 47, 1 RPG, 75 Chi Com grenades, 1 9mm pistol and 1 M-16. Bravo Company 4-3 Infantry reports CPL MARTIN TANNER BROWN JR, SP4 MICHAEL JOSEPH D ANGELICO, CPL RAUL GARCIA JR, PFC STEVEN LYNN GREEN. CPL DALLAS RAY SNODGRASS AND Headquarters Company SP4 MELVIN FRANK DUNSMORE JR LISTED AS KIA. Bravo Company 4-3 Infantry reports PFC Gary M Pederson, PFC Terrance E. Kasper, SGT Jackie L. Nelson PFC Ronald L. Goynes, PFC Domingo Lozada-Alvarez, PFC Mathew Andrews WIA on January 2, 1970 and PFC Gary L. Davis is also is Listed as KIA on January 3, 1970, PFC Oliver D Moore, PFC Eric F. Gonzales-Feliciano. Alpha Battery 6-11 Artillery reports SP4 Henry A. Gail JR WIA MFW upper trunk. A platoon of M101A1 105mm howitzers where going to "jumped" from Debbie to a FB on January 3, 1970. Advance Party to secure and prepare location under ground attack and RTO wounded, Bob sacrificed himself for the RTO by advancing to a secondary fire position. He was mortally wounded by AK47 round. My friend John Michitsch (now, 1999, a Major General) identified Bob after med-evac to Duc Pho. Bob was a red haired good ole boy from Oklahoma. He was recommended for Medal of Honor but downgraded to Silver Star. A fine young Man. **February 11, 1999 reported by William Hoagland Alpha Battery Commander.**



Distinguished Service Cross Citation

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Robert Carrol Wright (144-48-7528), Second Lieutenant (Field Artillery), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Battery A, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, American Division. Second Lieutenant Wright distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 2 January 1970 while in command of an advance party of field artillerymen establishing a firebase on Hill 285 near the town of Duc Pho. Late that night the hill came under intense mortar, rocket-propelled grenade, and small arms fire from an attacking enemy force. Lieutenant Wright immediately began adjusting artillery fire on the attackers, repeatedly exposing himself to the storm of incoming fire as he attempted to determine the enemy's exact positions. Moments after the hostile force initiated their attack, an enemy mortar round impacted near Lieutenant Wright and his radio operator, inflicting them both with shrapnel wounds. Despite his wounds, Lieutenant Wright continued to coordinate friendly supporting fire until sappers breached the defensive position and were advancing toward his position. Unable to engage the infiltrators with his damaged rifle, Lieutenant Wright stood out in the open and yelled at the intruders in order to draw their attention and fire to himself and away from the wounded radioman who could not move. Lieutenant Wright then led the sappers in a running chase over forty meters away from the radioman before he was mortally felled by their fire. Second Lieutenant Wright'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.

Headquarters, US Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 745 (March 24, 1970)

Home Town: Elk City, Oklahoma

Lieutenant Wrights other awards and decorations:

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for exceptionally valorous actions on 18 October 1969 while serving as a forward observer with 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery.

On that date Lieutenant Wright was working in connection with Army of the Republic of Vietnam elements south of Duc Pho. As the friendly unit was in its night defensive position several rocket propelled grenades impacted with the defensive perimeter and caused numerous casualties. Realizing the urgency of the situation, Lieutenant Wright immediately secured a radio and requested massive illumination and an emergency dustoff. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Wright then stood in an exposed area in order to accurately locate the enemy positions. Upon pinpointing several key hostile locations he elected to call in close range artillery support remaining in an open position in order to adjust the incoming rounds. He then ordered the Medevac helicopter to land, covering its approach and departure with close tactical support. His courageous and timely actions were instrumental in the swift evacuation of the friendly casualties and in thwarting the enemy attack. Second Lieutenant Wright's personal heroism, professional competence and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the American division, and the United States Army.

By direction of the President the Bronze Star Medal, First Oak Leaf Cluster, was posthumously awarded to Second Lieutenant Robert C. Wright, Field Artillery for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period July 1969 to January 1970.

By direction of the President, the Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to Second Lieutenant Robert C. Wright, for wounds received in action resulting in his death on 2 January 1970.

Prior to his death Lieutenant Wright had been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Expert Badge with rifle bar, and Sharpshooter badge with automatic rifle bar.



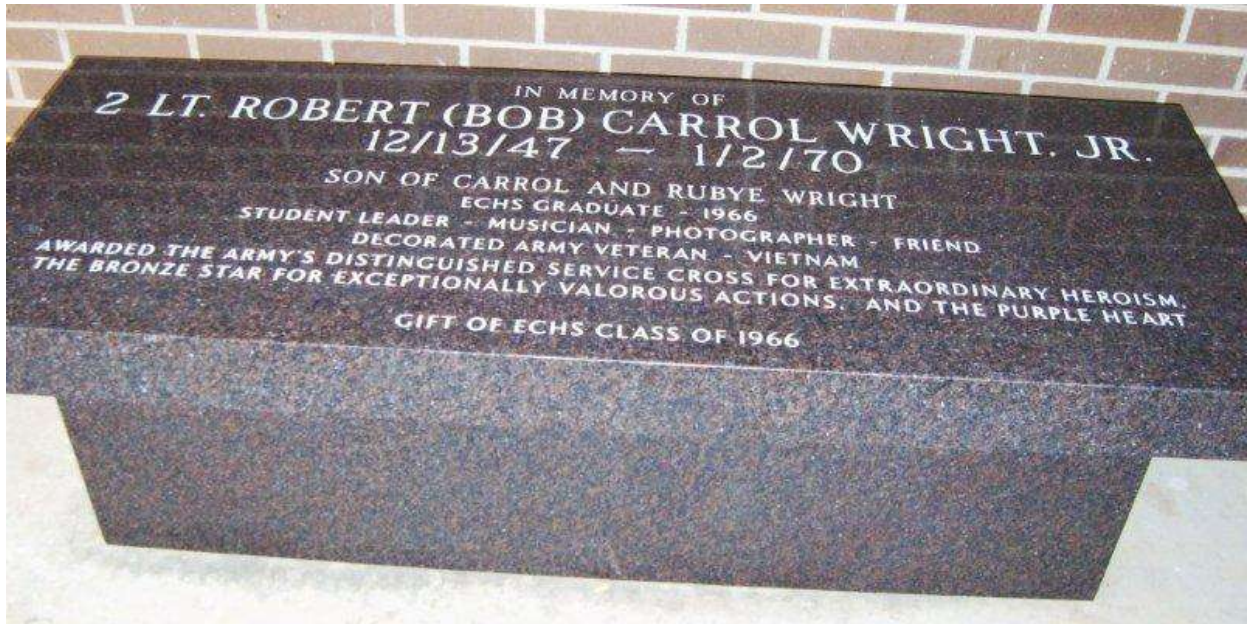
The 2LT Robert C. Wright Training Area is located on Fort Sill's East Range.

It was dedicated on November 16, 2001 in a ceremony hosted by the 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery. The firing point is located 4 miles from Hoyle Bridge on Bald Ridge Road, northeast of the main post. The approximate grid coordinates are 630 392.

In a letter sent to Mrs. Ruby Wright, Robert's mother, then Lieutenant Colonel Anthony J. Puckett wrote " We have the rather unique mission of training all Field Artillerymen before they go on to their permanent units. One of the ways we incorporate history and tradition into the soldier's military education is by saluting our fallen brothers-in-arms."



MG Caruthers presents posthumous awards to Robert's Mother Ruby at Fort Sill July 1970



Memorial bench which sits at the entrance of Elk City High School, Elk City, Oklahoma

Robert is buried at Fairview Cemetery, Elk City, Oklahoma