

2LT Raymond Edward Stone Jr., was killed in action in Tay Ninh, Vietnam, in December of 1967, while serving with the 25th Infantry Division (Tropic Lightning Division). He is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, Panel 31E, Row 94. Below are the General Orders for his Distinguished Service Cross:

*The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Second Lieutenant (Infantry) Raymond Edward Stone, Jr. (ASN: 0-5339673), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion, 14th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Second Lieutenant Stone distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 14 December 1967 while serving as platoon leader of an infantry company conducting a combat mission near Katum. His platoon suddenly received heavy automatic weapons, small arms, and recoilless rifle fire from an enemy force of unknown size in well fortified bunkers in a woodline. Lieutenant Stone immediately deployed his troops and led a fierce assault on the insurgents. Fifteen meters into the trees and undergrowth, his platoon encountered a thick wall of bamboo which concealed the hostile positions. Exposed to savage and relentless fire, he moved along the wall to an opening which was a firing lane and spotted two bunkers. Several of his men lay wounded in the exposed area, and Lieutenant Stone dashed through a hail of bullets to carry the casualties from the enemy killing zone to safety. Returning to the position with a recoilless rifle team, he threw hand grenades and placed a heavy volume of fire on the bunkers to draw the insurgents' fire until the recoilless rifle could engage the fortifications. The recoilless rifle received a direct hit from an enemy rocket round, and Lieutenant Stone and the gun crew were all wounded. He then called for more grenades to continue his gallant assault and enable the evacuation of the other casualties. Moving within ten meters of the hostile emplacements which had his troops pinned down, he destroyed the bunker with accurately thrown hand grenades. Just as he threw the last grenade, another enemy position began firing on him and he was instantly killed. His fearless and determined actions in close combat saved the lives of many fellow soldiers. Second Lieutenant Stone'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. General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 699 (February 15, 1968)*

Star # 33 was incised on the cenotaph of the American Legion Centennial Memorial by Maria del Fabro, a classmate of Ray in the Princeton High School Class of 1965:

*I fondly remember Ray from my days at Princeton High School. I have beautiful memories of his broad smile and charming manner. I had a great time with him at an outdoor summer party in 1963. Rest in peace Ray.*

