**RONALD A. WRIGHT, SR.**

Brick Location: C5

While marching in to reinforce units in the Idrang Valley, my uncle, Robert Wright, was killed in action. At the time he was the only family member deployed in Vietnam as my father, Ronald A. Wright, Sr., was assigned stateside to the 82nd Airborne Division. Learning of the tragic loss of his brother’s life, my father felt his duty was to deploy to Vietnam and complete what his brother started. He voluntarily transferred to the 101st Airborne Division and deployed in December of 1967 to Camp Eagle, Vietnam, leaving behind my mother and my newly born sister.

During his one year tour, my father survived through some of the toughest fighting seen by most soldiers. On my mother’s birthday in 1968 his camp was overrun by North Vietnamese Elements. Talking with him he says he is surprised he made it through that night alive.

My father’s primary mission was extracting wounded soldiers by helicopter evacuation. He risked his life for others every time he left the confines of his camp on a mission. He not only left by helicopter, but he also had to serve as part of force protection dismounted patrols where he engaged the enemy in countless ambushes and firefights.

I am very proud of my father and have the utmost respect for the sacrifices he made for our country. He not only served a tour in Vietnam, he also fought in the Dominican Republic with the 82nd Airborne prior to his Vietnam tour. This shows the character and courage my father possesses: he felt the sting of battle once and volunteered to return. He made a career of the military and eventually retired as a Sergeant Major after 24 years of outstanding service.

Submitted by:

Ronald A. Wright, Jr.

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