

VIETNAM

1 November 1955 – 30 April 1975

Barrie Vane Barnes

Specialist, 4th Class, United States Army (Regular)



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Barrie was born 8 December 1946. SP 4 Barnes began his tour of duty in Vietnam on 16 April 1966, with the 25th Infantry Division. He was 19 years old when he was killed in action in South Vietnam on 6 May 1966. Barnes is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 07E, Line 31.

The following information was shared by Chris Barnes, Ocean City, Maryland, in May 2008.

My name is Chris Barnes and I am the only sibling of Barrie Vane Barnes who was the first soldier from Wicomico County to be killed in The Vietnam War. Barrie was 6 years older than me and was truly my big brother. Until the Army, he was 6'4" tall and weighed about 300 pounds. When he was killed, he was very fit at 240 pounds. His heart matched his body size. He would do anything for anybody – and that's how he lost his life. Barrie went to Campus Elementary School which was on the campus of STC (Salisbury Teacher's College). Caruther's Hall was the home of the school on the campus of [what is now] Salisbury University. In High School, he attended Charlotte Hall Military Academy and came back to graduate from Wicomico Senior High in 1964. Barrie was really never focused on academics – but he sure was focused on life and having a great time. From racing his car at the Delmar drag strip to breezing around the Oaks Drive-In to sneaking cigarettes at school, etc. I have often said he only lived to be 19, but he lived one Hell of a full life. We grew up on Virginia Avenue in Salisbury. Our Dad was Bob Barnes who owned a Television and Appliance Store where Barrie worked during the summers and whenever Dad needed him. Barrie liked to play pranks on people. I remember hearing about the time he relieved himself in an empty beer bottle and replaced the cap and chilled it only to give it to Dan - one of Dad's loyal employees. When he was younger, he found Christmas toys that Dad had hidden in an attic storage area at his store. The attic had areas where there was no flooring – only rafters. Barrie fell through the rafters, through the ceiling and landed on the floor with one of the toys in his lap. Our Mom is Norma Barnes. She and Dad were married 2 weeks shy of 50 years when my Dad passed away after suffering from Alzheimer's. Mom was truly June Cleaver. She always had breakfast each morning. Not cereal but eggs, bacon and toast. She and Barrie were very close and she was a great Mom. Barrie found himself in the Army. He went to Alaska for the first 18 months of his enlistment and then he volunteered to go fight in Viet Nam. Back then, the Army sent you to Hawaii for "jungle training". My parents, thank God, were able to scrape enough money together to visit him over there. That was the last time they would be together. Several months ago, I submitted a request to the Army to provide more details of his death. He was wounded in

the leg. After being put on a stretcher, he saw one of his buddies shot and he jumped off the stretcher, grabbed his gun and started running toward his friend when he was shot three times in the chest. He was only in Viet Nam 6 days. Our family was known throughout the shore because of Dad's business and the family's community involvement. Additionally, as I have stated, Barrie was the first soldier in Wicomico County killed. It was a devastating time for the family and also for the many friends of Barrie. He had a funeral with full military honors. It was one of the biggest funerals of the time in Salisbury. My Dad could not go. He was absolutely numb with emotion. Barrie was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for heroism.

Mom and Dad never really recovered from Barrie's death. No parent ever does. But when your child is killed by an unknown enemy 12,000 miles away in a jungle at age 19, it's hard to make any sense of it – particularly knowing how we fought the war and how we left the war.

What a great guy he was. I miss him everyday and there have been so many times in my life when I wished I had a big brother to talk with and play with and love. He would have had a cazillion children. And I would have proudly been Uncle Chris.

Instead, I am proudly the little brother of Barrie Barnes. I wish the whole world could have known him. It would certainly be a better place!!

Gary Lee Bounds

Private First Class, United States Army (Regular)

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Gary was born 2 December 1946.

Pfc Bounds began his tour of duty in Vietnam on 22 September 1967, with the 4th Infantry Division. He was 21 years old when he was killed at Pleiku, South Vietnam on 5 May 1968. Bounds is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 55E, Line 3.



Richard Waller Cooper, Jr.

Major, United States Air Force (Reserve)

307th Stratofortress Wing, Utapao Air Base Thailand

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Richard was born 18 November 1942.



Frustrated by problems in negotiating a peace settlement, and pressured by a Congress and public wanting an immediate end to American involvement in Vietnam, President Nixon ordered the most concentrated air offensive of the war – known as Linebacker II – in December 1972. During the offensive, sometimes called the “Christmas bombings,”

40,000 tons of bombs were dropped, primarily over the area between Hanoi and Haiphong. White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said that the bombing would end only when all U. S. POWs were released and an internationally recognized cease-fire was in force.

On the first day of Linebacker II, 18 December, 129 B52s arrived over Hanoi in three waves, four to five hours apart. They attacked the airfields at Hoa Lac, Kep and Phuc Yen; the Kinh No complex; and the Yen Vien railyards. The aircraft flew in tight cells of three aircraft to maximize the mutual support benefits of their ECM equipment and flew straight and level to stabilize the bombing computers and ensure that all bombs fell on the military targets and not in civilian areas. The pilots of the early missions reported that "wall-to-wall SAMS" surrounded Hanoi as they neared its outskirts. On the first night of bombing, 18 December, and early in the morning of 19 December, two B52s were shot down by SAMs (Strategic Air Missiles). Major Richard Waller Cooper, Jr. was the navigator on the second B52 shot down.

Other United States aircraft were unable to establish radio contact with the downed six-man crew and a search and rescue mission was not attempted because the area was under enemy control, according to the Pentagon. Four of the crew were captured and held as prisoners of war. When they were released in 1973, they reported Cooper had been unable to eject from the airplane. According to the Pentagon, each crewman also said they saw only three other parachutes leaving the bomber.

United States investigators visiting a Vietnamese military museum in 1993 and 1994 found photographs, records, and artifacts that they believed were linked to the crashed bomber.

After determining the likely crash site, a joint United States-Vietnam excavation in the fall of 1995 found the wreckage of a B-52, personal effects, and human remains. A second excavation in early 1996 uncovered more personal effects and remains. Anthropological analysis by the Central Identification Laboratory, as well as mitochondrial DNA matches, confirmed the identification of Major Richard Cooper and Chief Master Sergeant Charlie Poole of Gibsland, Louisiana. Chief Master Sergeant Poole was the aerial gunner on the B-52.

Exactly 31 years after his plane was shot down in Vietnam, Air Force Major Richard Waller Cooper, Jr. was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 19 December 2003.

Cooper is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 01W, Line 95.

Elmer Neal Davis

Private, United States Army (Selective Service)

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Davis was born 11 March 1945. PVT Davis was with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade when he was killed in Quang Tin, South Vietnam on 19 September 1967.

He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 26E, Line 92.

Elmer Davis entered the United States Army shortly after graduating from the former Salisbury High School, Salisbury, MD in June 1964. He left behind a wife and son. His son is a Pastor. Elmer was an advocate for music and sports. His greatest ambition was to join the Army. He leaves many fond memories behind. Former American Legion Department of Maryland Commander, Melvin Smullen, United States Army retired, provided this additional information in November, 2014.



William John Daubert

Specialist, 4th Class, United States Army
(Selective Service)

Entered the Service from Eden, Maryland
SP4 Daubert was born 2 May 1948. Daubert was serving with the 1st Cav Division (AMBL) when he was killed on 10 April 1969, in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 27W, Line 48.



Cecil Vaughn Evans

Staff Sergeant, United States Army (Regular)

He was serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade when he was killed on 7 September 1968, in Quang Duc, South Vietnam. SSGT is listed on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Panel 45W, Line 61.

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
The Committee is grateful for the following information that was provided in May 2008, by Mrs. Nancy Evans, wife of Vaughn Evans. He was born 16 November 1947. In January 1966, Vaughn enlisted in the Army, and went to boot camp in June 1966. He was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina when a son was born in November 1966. It would be six long weeks before Vaughn could get leave and come home and see his



wife and son. Staff Sergeant Evans was 18 years old when he went to Vietnam. His R & R (Rest and Relaxation) during his tour was spent in Australia.

Two months before his 20th birthday, and two weeks before SSgt Evans was to rotate home, he was killed on 7 September 1968, in Quang Duc, South Vietnam. Vaughn Evans is buried at Springhill Memory Gardens in Salisbury.

Mrs. Evans spoke at length about her family. Their son is married, living on the eastern shore, and recently received his PhD. There are two brothers of Vaughn living on the western shore of Maryland; one is a Dentist and the other is a principal. Vaughn's mother is residing in a nursing home on the western shore.

The SSGT is listed on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Panel 45W, Line 61.

Aaron Milton Hopkins

Private First Class, United States Army
(Selective Service)



Entered the Service from Mardela Springs, Maryland
Hopkins was born 21 August 1945. He was serving with the 25th Infantry Division when he was killed on 24 June 1966, in South Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 08E, line 85.

Aaron Hopkins entered the United States Army shortly after graduating from the former Salisbury High School in June, 1964. He resided in Mardela Springs, MD (San Domingo) with his guardian mother, Dorothy Hopkins and one sister, Portia Hopkins. He was a very likeable and friendly person who was called by the nickname "Jack." His love of sports grew from softball to basketball. His favorite song was "Daddy is Home." He leaves many fond memories behind. Former American Legion Department of Maryland Commander, Melvin Smullen, United States Army retired, provided this additional information.

Robert Hudson

Airman, Second Class, United States Air Force

Entered the Service from Wicomico, County, Maryland



Marion Bennett Hughes, Jr.

Private, United States Army (Regular)

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Hughes was born 30 July 1949. He was serving with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th US Cavalry, 1st Cav Division when he was killed the morning of 3 December 1968, in Phuoc Long, South Vietnam. Hughes is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 37W, Line 33.



Albert T. Jones

Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps

Entered the Service from Wicomico County, Maryland



Frederick Russell Killmon

Corporal, United States Marine Corps (Regular)

Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland
Killmon was born 2 June 1950. "Freddie" was killed on 31 August 1970 in Quang Nam, South Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Panel 07W, Line 27.



Ernest Arthur Olds

Colonel, United States Air Force (Regular)

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Colonel Olds was born 14 July 1934. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy, the Colonel chose the Air Force.

Colonel Ernie A. Olds and First Lieutenant Albert E. Rodriguez comprised the crew of an F4D Phantom fighter/bomber sent on a mission over North Vietnam on 11 March 1968. Their mission area was near a railroad which runs parallel to the Nguon Nay River in Quang Binh Province.

The F4 Phantom D model had only arrived in Vietnam the previous May and was initially part of the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron's aircraft inventory. The D model was improved over the C model with the addition of a lead-computing sight and central air data computer for both bombing and navigation. The computer automatically determined the weapon release point for all bombing modes – dive or level, at night or in



bad weather. The D model also launched Walleye television guided missiles and laser guided bombs. All in all, the Phantom was the “hot” aircraft of the day, and pilots were proud to fly them.

Olds and Rodriguez were both in “pilot” classifications; it remains unclear which man was the pilot and which was the backseat/bomber/navigator on the flight. Given the ranks and the fact that Rodriguez’ military occupational specialty remains classified, it is assumed that Colonel Olds was the pilot and Rodriguez was “the guy in back” – the one with the extensive systems knowledge.

At a point about 5 miles southwest of the city of Ron, Olds and Rodriguez’ aircraft was shot down. Other aircraft in the area saw the crash sight, but heard no emergency beepers, nor did they see any parachutes indicating that one or more of the crew had ejected from the crippled aircraft. Because the area in which the aircraft went down was a populous one, there is reason to believe that, if the crew survived, the enemy knew their fate. The area was not conducive for rescue efforts, although one would have commenced if there had been any indication that the crew was safe.

Since 1968, the Vietnamese denied any knowledge of the fates of the two men. On 24 July 1989, it was announced that the remains of First Lieutenant Albert E. Rodriguez had been “discovered”, positively identified, and returned by the Vietnamese to the United States. Colonel Ernest Arthur Olds’ remains were identified 2 August 1996. His name was added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial May 1997.

He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 44E, Line 19.

Norman Wayne Mc Robie

Airman, First Class, United States Air Force
(Regular)



Entered the Service from Delmar, Maryland

Norman was born 6 October 1940. He was killed on 26 November 1966, in Gia Dinh, South Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 12E, Line 122

William Thomas Parker, III

Private First Class, United States Marine Corps
(Regular)



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Parker was born 19 January 1948. He was killed on

1 June 1967, in Quang Tri, South Vietnam. At the time of his death, Parker was in Lima 3/9, 2nd platoon. PFC Parker is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 21E, Line 29.

Charles Walter Parsons

Staff Sergeant, United States Marine Corps
(Regular)



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Parsons was born 8 February 1916. His date of death
is listed as 12 June 1966, in South Vietnam. The SSGT is listed on the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial, Panel 08E, Line 43.

Norman James Pearson

Corporal, United States Army
(Selective Service)



Entered the Service from Hebron, Maryland
Pearson was born 12 October 1949. Pearson, who was a 1968 graduate of Mardela High
School, was killed on 9 February 1971 while on a military mission in Quang Ngai, South
Vietnam when a booby trap detonated. His wife, the former Vicky Kennedy, and the
soldier's mother, Mrs. Beluah Morley of Sharptown, received word of his death by
telegram. Young Pearson was expected to leave Vietnam the following month to come
home, the family said.

Born in Nassawadox, VA, his father is Norman J. Pearson Sr. of Birds Nest, VA. Pearson
was drafted in the Army in April of 1969. Prior to going into the service, he worked for
Cope's Candy Co. in Sharptown. The CPL was with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade at
the time of his death. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 05W, Line
92.

George Thomas Powell

Staff Sergeant, United States Army (Regular)



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Powell was born 19 February 1926. He was killed on
24 April 1967 in South Vietnam. The SSGT is listed on the
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 18E, Line 81.

Millard Ernest Price, Jr.

Warrant Officer 01, United States Marine Corps



(Regular)

HQ Co, HQ Bn, 3rd Marine Division

Entered the Service from Fruitland, Maryland

Price was born 25 November 1925. He was killed on 8 January 1968, in Thua Thien (Hue) South Vietnam.

On 8 January 1968, a CH-53A helicopter assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron HMH-463 crashed in the Hai Lang Forest. The crew of five and 36 passengers were killed in the crash. Of particular interest was the presence on the aircraft of a Marine Corps Officer known as, "Mr. Dye-marker". The Dye-marker Project was a part of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's plan to construct a barbed wire and electronic barrier across South Vietnam to cut the infiltration of North Vietnamese soldiers and supplies across the Demilitarized Zone. The Officer had the Top Secret plans in a briefcase chained to his wrist. For additional information related to search and rescue attempts, there is a web page maintained by the USMC/Combat Helicopter Association at www.popasmoke.com.

Warrant Officer Ernie Price was interred at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri, on 23 July 1968. The Marine is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 33E, Line 92.

Carl Ratcliffe, Jr.

Specialist, 4th Class, United States Army (Regular)

Service # 13723824



Entered the Service from Pittsville, Maryland

Ratcliffe was born 13 March 1944. He was killed when his patrol was ambushed on 7 December 1967, Binh Duong, South Vietnam. He was serving with the 1st Infantry Division. His older sister, Leslie Ann Elliott, is quoted as saying, "My brother is most definitely a HERO. He served his country well and gave his all to save his patrol when they were ambushed. I was honored to be with his daughter and widow to accept his medal, the Silver Star. He was very proud to be in the U. S. Army."

SP4 Ratcliffe is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 31E, Line 60.

George Lord Robertson

Staff Sergeant, United States Army (Regular)

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland

Robertson was born on 1 May 1946. At the time



of his death on 26 January 1971, in Quang Tin, South Vietnam, he was serving with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. The SSGT is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 05W, Line 65.

George Robinson entered the United States Army shortly after graduating from the former Salisbury High School, Salisbury, MD. Everyone has said that his love for the military proved to be his greatest ambition. He left behind many fond memories with the Salisbury High School Class of 1964. Former American Legion Department of Maryland Commander, Melvin Smullen, United States Army retired, provided this additional information in November, 2014.

David Scott Seldon

Private First Class, United States Marine Corps
(Selective Service)



Entered the Service from Quantico, Maryland
Seldon was born 11 January 1949. He was killed on 10 September 1969, in Quang Tri, South Vietnam. The PFC is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 18W, Line 65.

Don Lee Shockley

Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps
(Regular)



Service # 2116063

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Don Lee Shockley was born 30 April 1946. He was killed on 28 March 1967, in Quang Nam, South Vietnam.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial web page includes the following tribute for the Marine from a "little sister" in Salisbury; written Friday, 5 November 1999.

"You were probably the first man I ever really loved. Even though I am an only child, I considered you my Big Brother. I would wait breathlessly for you to come home from school every day. I remember sitting on the front porch step of your mother's house with you in the afternoon. I loved you so much. I remember the last time I saw you. You had come home from California for leave. You were about ready to be shipped out to Nam. I was 9 years old. I remember you in your Marine dress blues. For your coming home on leave I had memorized the Marine Corps Hymn, 'From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli'. You seemed so tall and handsome, godlike. My knight in shining armor. Much like the later Marine Corps commercials. I remember the day you left to go back to California. I had a special surprise for you. As you went to the curb to catch that cab to the bus station, I stood on the top step of your Mother's porch and sang the

Marine Corps Hymn. You stopped and listened. You saluted me. The cab took you away and I never saw you again. One day, while I was at your mother's house, a car arrived. Two men in uniform got out. Your mom screamed at the sight of them. I was rushed home. You see in a few weeks you would be coming home and we all were planning a big birthday bash for you. Instead they had to plan your funeral. I was numb when my mother told me what happened to you. I don't think at the age of 11 I really knew how to grieve. Anyway, my mom would not let me go to your funeral. She and Dad went. I was left home, alone with my confusion and shock. There has never been any closure for me. Every day I find myself peering out my front door on my way to work, expecting that beautiful 19 year old boy to be walking up my sidewalk. My knight in shining armor. In his Marine dress blues. And I will sing the Marine Corps Hymn. And he will salute me. Your mom and dad are gone now. I have no idea 'were' your brother and sisters are. I see no one has written to you here. I will always remember, and love, and miss you."

The LCPL is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 17E, Line 64

Jack Howard Smith

Private First Class, United States Army (Regular)

Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
Smith was born 1 March 1948. He was killed on
13 March 1967, in Binh Duong, South Vietnam. At the
time of his death, he was serving with the 1st Infantry Division. The PFC is listed on the
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 16E, Line 71.



Harvey Raymond Watson

Corporal, United States Marine Corps
(Regular)

Entered the Service from Hebron, Maryland
Watson was born 13 April 1949. The CPL died on
26 July 1969, in Quang Nam, South Vietnam. Harvey was born in Henderson, North
Carolina and was raised in Hebron. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial,
Panel 20W, Line 52.



Neopolis Wigfall

Sergeant, United States Army (Regular)

Entered the Service from Fruitland, Maryland
The Sergeant was born 28 December 1932. He was



serving with the 1st Cav Division (AMBL) when he was killed on 17 November 1965, in South Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 03E, Line 98.

John Davis Willingham

Specialist, 4th Class, United States Army (Regular)



Entered the Service from Salisbury, Maryland
SP4 Willingham was born 14 July 1936. At the time of his death on 4 February 1968, he was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Kontum, South Vietnam. He is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Panel 37E, Line 29.
