



FALLEN HERO

Second Lieutenant James B. McGarry USMC

James B. McGarry was born on February 28, 1945 in Attleboro, MA. He lived in Norton until age seven, and then moved to Raynham with his family in 1952. The family *lived* on the east end of Route 44 near the Taunton River. Jim attended Immaculate Conception Grammar School and Monsignor James Coyle High School in Taunton. While at Coyle High, Jim was on the track team and the debate team, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Jim also worked at the *Taunton Daily Gazette* during his high school summers.

Upon graduation from Coyle High School with honors in 1963, Jim enrolled at Northeastern University and majored in Journalism and later in English. While on co-op, Jim worked at the *New Bedford Standard Times* and the *Boston Globe*. During his senior year at Northeastern, Jim worked full time for the *Globe* as a staff reporter while attending college full time.

After graduation from Northeastern with honors in 1968, Jim enlisted in the Marine Corps and commenced training at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA in September, 1968. Jim was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant in November, 1968. After completion of his Marine infantry training at the Basic School in Quantico, VA in April, 1969, Lieutenant McGarry married the former Kathleen Cavanaugh of Arlington, MA.

Lieutenant McGarry then attended the Army Psychological Warfare School at Fort Bragg, NC. Upon completion of this final phase of his training in August, 1969, Lieutenant McGarry was ordered to the Republic of Viet Nam and arrived in country in September, 1969.

Lieutenant McGarry was assigned as a Platoon Commander to the Second Platoon of Lima Company, Third Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division. During the early morning hours of September 17, 1969, Second Lieutenant James B. McGarry USMC, at the age of 24, was killed in action in the vicinity of the Rockpile Fire Support Base in the Northern I Corps area, approximately seven miles west of Cam Lo, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Viet Nam. His Company of Marines had become engaged in a night battle with a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army Regimental size unit. Sixteen other Marines and one Navy Corpsman died in that engagement. Over 75 enemy soldiers also died in the battle.