



Corporal Bruce E. Johnston III

Corporal Bruce E. Johnston III was born in Revere on November 9, 1949. He grew up on Francine Road, in the Pleasantfield section of Raynham. He attended Raynham schools and graduated from Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School with the Class of 1967.

Shortly thereafter, Bruce, along with seven other young men, enlisted in the United States Army in Brockton on August 28, 1967. Bruce completed basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and then went on for Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Upon completion, Bruce volunteered for jump school and was assigned to the very intensive training regimen of Parachute School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He completed the course and had silver Parachutist Wings pinned on his chest. Then Bruce volunteered for and was accepted into the elite 101 st Airborne Division, otherwise known as the Screaming Eagles. The Division was serving in Viet Nam at the time, so Bruce received overseas orders.

Upon arrival in Viet Nam in early May 1967, Corporal Johnston was assigned to A Company, 2 nd Battalion, 327 th Infantry Regiment of the 101 st Airborne Division. His unit was conducting combat operations in Thua Thien Province. Shortly after arriving in the Republic of Viet Nam, his unit came under enemy small arms fire. During the firefight on June 1, 1968, Corporal Johnston was mortally wounded.

At the time of his death, Corporal Johnston was survived by his parents, his grandparents, and three sisters.

Corporal Johnston's name appears on the Viet Nam Memorial Wall on Panel 61W, Row 3 in Washington DC.

Corporal Johnston was the recipient of the following awards and decorations:

1. Purple Heart Medal, with white cross distinguishing device, denoting a posthumous award
2. Combat Infantry Badge, for having taken and returned enemy fire
3. National Defense Service Medal, for serving on active duty during a time of national conflict
4. Vietnam Service Medal (yellow), with one bronze star, for participation in one combat phase,
5. Viet Nam Campaign Medal (green), with palm, for either serving 6 months in country or dying in combat
6. Army Parachutist Wings
7. Shooting Badge for the M-14 Rifle