

The Angels of Vietnam



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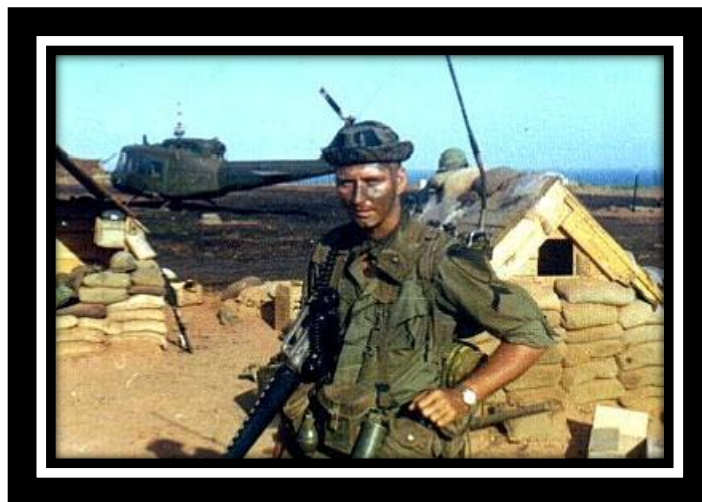
THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES



Vietnam

1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane

1LT Lane was the only American servicewoman killed as a direct result of enemy fire throughout the war.



As a combat veteran who has borne the brunt of our nation's actions in Vietnam, bearing freedom's sword in answer to our country's call, I wish to express my tremendous gratitude for the gift of purest compassion and healing an angel brought to us in Vietnam. Though I never had the honor of personally meeting Sharon Ann Lane, I wish to pay sincere tribute to her name...the only Vietnam nurse to die from enemy attack, In Chu Lai, Vietnam, 312TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL... Sharon Lane was working in the Vietnamese ward in the early morning hours of June 08, 1969, when a 122mm rocket slammed into the compound. Sharon was hit in the aorta by shrapnel.

I was wounded in combat by a trip wire booby trap that detonated a grenade, that in turn detonated an artillery round. I felt firsthand the selfless sacrifices and humanity of Sharon's nursing sisters, bearing a most noble calling in the nursing corps that serves the U.S. military. I am forever indebted for their tender mercies at a time I was deprived of love, fallen destitute and abandoned, feeling only cold heat of war's savagery, in peril of very life itself.

Sharon Ann Lane truly epitomized that unselfish healing I received. She tenderly administered to the slings and arrows of that most terrible beast called war. She gave of her very essence in this greatest act of love, meting out her healing to nourish and restore not only abundant physical wounds, but also by her goodness assuaging insidious mental afflictions that a treacherous war implants in the minds of "boys next door."

Sharon indeed paid the highest price for her convictions. In great courage Sharon gave her all to that greater spirituality she valued more than life itself. I am humbled and honored by the sweet memory of... 1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane

by Gary Jacobson

Sharon Ann Lane

First Lieutenant

312TH EVAC HOSP, 67TH MED GRP, 44TH MED BDE

Army Of The United States

07 July 1943 - 08 June 1969

Canton, OH

Panel 23W Line 112

Lt. Lane died from shrapnel wounds when the 312th Evac. at Chu Lai was hit by rockets on June 8, 1969. From Canton, OH, she was a month short of her 26th birthday. She was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism. In 1970, the recovery room at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, where Lt. Lane had been assigned before going to Viet Nam, was dedicated in her honor. In 1973, Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH, where Lane had attended nursing school, erected a bronze statue of Lane. The names of 110 local servicemen killed in Vietnam are on the base of the statue.



Sharon Ann Lane was born in Zanesville, Ohio, but grew up in North Industry, Stark County, Ohio. She was graduated from Canton South High School in June 1961 and entered the Aultman Hospital School of Nursing the following September. After graduating from Aultman in 1965, she worked at the hospital until May, 1967, when she decided to try her hand in the business world. After three quarters at the Canton Business College she quit to join the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Reserve on April 18, 1968.

2LT Lane began training on May 5 at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. On 17 June she reported to Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado. While at Fitzsimons, she was promoted to First Lieutenant. On 24 April 1969 she reported to Travis Air Force Base in California with orders for Vietnam.

She arrived at the 312th Evac Hospital at Chu Lai on 29 April and was assigned to the Intensive Care ward for a few days before being assigned to the Vietnamese Ward. She worked 5 days a week (12 hours per day) in this ward and on the sixth day worked in Intensive Care.

At 0605, 8 June 1969, the 74th Medical Battalion reported a rocket hit between Wards 4a and 4b of the 312th Evacuation Hospital. The explosion killed two and wounded 27 US and Vietnamese personnel (see the). 1LT Lane was killed by fragmentation wounds.

Although seven other American military nurses died while serving in Vietnam, 1LT Lane was the only American servicewoman killed as a direct result of enemy fire throughout the war.

A Memorial Service was held at Chu Lai on June 10, 1969, and a Catholic Mass was held June 11, 1969. Services in Canton were held June 14, 1969. 1LT Sharon Ann Lane was buried in Sunset Hills Burial Park, Canton, Ohio.

01 September 2001

Sharon Lane, the All-American Girl

She came to Vietnam not to fight or warrior to be
but to serve a higher purpose across the sea.

She knew the hurt, the pain, the dying
Sharon came to heal them and to stop the crying.

With purpose in her steps she made her rounds
To give hope to the soldier and to turn his frown upside down.

Whether it be the boy from back home or the Viet Cong
She did her job with care--she knew this is where she belonged.

She was cut down in the middle of the night
A piece of flying metal took her life.

She died alone
So far from home.

Her life was taken from us
Sharon's presence we still miss.

Let us never forget that freedom has a cost
Sharon became our hero--our hearts are empty by her loss.

Sharon was the All-American girl
She was perfection in an imperfect world.

Remembered by
"Doc" Kerry Pardue,
a field medic in Vietnam
3226 N Sycamore Place, Chandler, AZ 85224

1LT Lane was awarded the following decorations:

- Purple Heart,
- Bronze Star with a "V" for gallantry,
- National Defense Service Medal,
- Vietnam Service Medal,
- National Order Of Vietnam Medal,
- (South) Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (with Palm).

