

JIMMY ALAN MILLER

Loveland HS Class of 1965

US Army

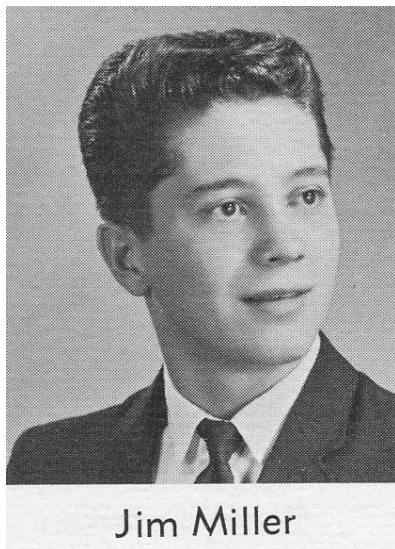
January 20, 1966 – January 19, 1969

Combat Infantryman

Served in Vietnam September 1966 to January 1969

- 1st Air Cavalry and the 173rd Airborne Brigade
- Security Guard attached to the 716th MP Battalion – Saigon

Worked in Vietnam February 1969 to April 1972 as a civilian for RMK-BRJ, a private consortium with contracts with the US Government to build highways and other facilities in Viet Nam.



Miller, Jimmy Alan

"His nature is too noble for the world." Shakespeare
Football Manager 2, 3; Track Manager 4; Art Club 3; Latin Club
1, 2; DECA 3, 4; Musical 3

Jimmy Alan Miller

Class of 1965, Loveland High School

We moved to Loveland from Kentucky in the summer of 1961. My father worked in the oilfield in drilling exploration, production, and sales which afforded us many opportunities to move. I believe I attended 7 different schools before I started high school in Loveland. I did attend all four years in Loveland although at two different high schools as did most of the Class of '65. I gave a lame effort at college at CSU and decided it was time for me to see the world. I had read about construction workers in Viet Nam making \$1,500 a month tax free. That was very good money in the '60s. I wanted some.

As soon as I left college, the draft board beckoned. I decided to beat the draft – I enlisted. I told the recruiter I wanted to go infantry, airborne, and Viet Nam. Viet Nam so I could get a job after my Army days were over. He promised me he could deliver on infantry, airborne, and Viet Nam. He said my post Army career was put of his hands. It was up to me to take care of that. What a guy!!!

On January 19, 1966, I boarded a plane to El Paso Texas where I attended basic training at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Yes, life was suddenly a bit different. Hair styles and clothing were not much of an issue anymore. New friends, screaming drill sergeants, and some new cuss words were introduced into my life.

After I finished basic training, I was sent immediately to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for infantry training, and then on to jump school at Ft. Benning, Georgia. I made the required 5 jumps from a plane and headed to Viet Nam after a two week leave to visit family and friends.

I left Fort Ord, California, on an Airforce C-41 jet and landed in Saigon, Viet Nam, one hot steamy afternoon. The Army sent me and some Army friends to Cam Ranh Bay for a month, and then I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in An Khe in the Central Highlands. I joined my infantry unit a couple of days later, and the next day we air assaulted into a hot LZ in the Central Highlands. Such was my life until about May 1967.

Around May 1967 the two Airborne units in VN took heavy casualties, and most of the 11B#Ps were transferred to them. I was sent to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. I spent the next 5 months with the 173rd again as combat infantryman. Life wasn't much different from the 1st Cav except we started getting dehydrated LRP rations instead of C-rations. I was wounded by a grenade in the Dak To region during this time in an ambush.

On my trip from the 1st Cav to the 173rd, some of us got to "unofficially" spend 3 days in Saigon. That was a different lifestyle and one we were interested in. Two of us signed up to extend our tours 6 months at a time until our enlistment was over. In October 1967, I left the 173rd and reported to Co. C, 52nd Infantry in Saigon.

While in the Army in Saigon, I was involved in the TET and May offensives in 1968. Yes, more combat when I thought those days were behind me. A couple of months before my enlistment ended, I was able to find a post-Army job with a construction company, RMK-BRJ and returned to VN for another 3 ½ years to work in construction as a civilian after I left the Army on January 13, 1969.

After I left Viet Nam in 1972, I worked in the oil exploration industry as a Drilling Fluids Engineer. I have worked and/or lived on 6 of the 7 continents. I married my Vietnamese girlfriend in April 1975, and we got out of the country one week before the fall of Saigon. We have three daughters and 7 grandchildren. We currently live in Spring, Texas. I retired in 2015.

My Army Medals include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Sharpshooter Medal, Jump Wings, Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Honorable Discharge Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal – I know, that one was a surprise to me, too.

Jimmy Miller

My Military Memories

January 20, 1966 – January 19, 1969

Compiled in August 2020



An Khe	Kon Tum
Bong Son	Long Binh
Cam Ranh Bay	Plei Ku
Cho Lon	Saigon
Dak To	



Jump Wings



Combat Infantryman Badge



Purple Heart



Good
Conduct
Medal



National
Defense
Service
Medal



Vietnam
Service
Medal



Vietnam
Campaign
Medal



Honorable
Discharge
Medal



Jim Miller, Dennis Wheeler, Tony Sanfilippo - Saigon about 1967-68

Jimmy Miller Receives Purple Heart



SAIGON, VIETNAM—Army Specialist Four Jimmy A. Miller (right), 20, whose mother, Mrs. Margaret Thompson, lives at 524 Russell, Craig, receives congratulations and the Purple Heart Medal near Saigon, Vietnam, Nov. 2.

Congratulating him is Lieutenant Colonel Gordon D. Rowe, commanding officer of the 716th Military Police Battalion in Vietnam. Spec. Miller was present-

ed the award for wounds received while serving in Vietnam as a security guard in Company C of the 52nd Infantry's 716th Military Police Battalion.

Miller entered the Army in January 1966 and graduated in 1965 from Loveland (Colo.) High School.

His father, Bill Miller, lives at 503 Grant, Loveland, Colo.

He also has received the Combat Infantryman Badge.

