

From: Carol Singer <casinger1@gmail.com>
To: president@vva1071.org
Date: April 19, 2018 at 1:24 PM
Subject: personal request

Mr. President,

My brother Donald M. Stalter enlisted in the Navy the day after his 18th birthday in 1965. He served 1965-1969 during the Viet Nam War. He was a Hospitalman and served with the Marines as a Corpsman.

My mother received a Western Union Telegram on 10 May 1967 confirming on behalf of the United States Navy that her son HM3 Donald Stalter was wounded in action on 3 May 1967 near Tinh Quang Tin, South Vietnam. He received gunshot wound of the abdomen from enemy rifle fire while on operation Beaver Cage. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Occasionally my brother spoke of his pride for the Marine Corps Green. Given the choice of dress attire he always chose the Marine uniform his group had given him.

Ten years ago we learned the depth of the wounds he received in Viet Nam. Those wounds to his brain not his body. His original surgeries had created scar tissue that was failing and his whole abdomen had to be rebuilt. During his recovery he also was diagnosed with severe PTSD. All the years of disappearing, the instability of 3 failed marriages, the near abandonment of two beautiful children finally seemed to be explained. He recovered from his surgeries and flourished with the counseling provided by the VA in Florida. He thrived on being a grandfather and rebuilding a relationship with his children.

On December 22, 2016 my brother died suddenly at age 69 of natural causes. This created a tremendous shock for myself, my sisters and Don's children.

It has taken these many months for his children to prepare their final goodbye to their father. His son Jeff and daughter Jaime finally reached the decision that their dad should be honored with burial of his ashes at Fort Logan.

It is my personal request to know if it is possible for someone from your organization to attend his memorial service and military honors by the Navy at Fort Logan on Friday, May 11 at 10:00a.m. at Committal Shelter A to display that loyalty that Viet Nam Veterans have for one another. You see, Don didn't really have any friends. It was easy for him to make friends, but then he would move along.

I believe it is important that his children see the respect shared by Viet Nam Veterans, and I would be forever grateful. I also understand if my personal request is out of the bounds of your organization.

Carol Stalter Singer