



### **James Richard Biernacki (1948 – 1968)**

James Biernacki was born on 4 March 1948. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Biernacki of 643 Tiffany Ct, Chula Vista, CA. He had attended Hilltop High School. His father said that he liked to hunt and was a skilled horseman. He rode a lot out of the stables in Bonita. He is also survived by his brother, Frank, who was attending Hilltop High School.

James Biernacki was a Sergeant in the United States Army. He was a member of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade and had been in Vietnam for 10 ½ months. He died from wounds inflicted due to hostile fire on March 14, 1968. He had just celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday only 10 days earlier. He had been decorated four times for gallantry. He had parachute jump wings and had made over 50 jumps. He was killed by a sniper in the central highlands of Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star with combat “V”, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He had been in many major battles in Vietnam and was part of an offensive helicopter assault force. He was a native of Chincoteague, VA and his home of record is listed as Chula Vista, CA. A street in Chula Vista has been named in his honor.

His name is listed on the WALL in Washington DC at location 44 East, Row 44. His name also appears in San Diego at the Veterans peace Memorial and in Memorial Park in Chula Vista. He is buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery at location Section S, Site 31. His name also appears on the San Diego Peace Memorial in Balboa Park. His name was also added to the Stardust Spacecraft in a NASA microchip as an outreach program. Further information can be found at:

<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/overview/microchip/faq.html>



