



Victor Walter Lew (1943 – 1971)

Victor Lew was born on April 14, 1943 in Lombard, Illinois, and was a resident of Bonita, California. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Lew of 3645 Proctor Road, Bonita, CA. He was a student at Castle Park Junior High School, and a member of the Cadet Corps at Chula Vista High School. He was also a past captain of the Sons of the American Legion Post 434 in Chula Vista. He graduated from High School in Chula Vista in 1960, and attended San Diego State College for four years. He then served in the Peace Corps in Quito Ecuador from 1965 to 1966. In June 1968, he received a Masters degree in history at Creighton University in Omaha Nebraska, and then started work toward a doctorate at the University of California at San Diego.

In September 1968, Victor Lew volunteered for service in the U. S. Army and received his commission on March 6, 1970. 1st Lieutenant Lew served in the U.S. Army Reserve and died in the Vietnam War at Quang Nam, South Vietnam on July 4, 1971. He was killed by hostile small arms fire. He was 28 and not married. His body was recovered.

Funeral arrangements were made locally by Humphrey Mortuary in Chula Vista. He is buried at the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, CA and his grave is located at Plot: D O 308-D. He was buried on July 13, 1971. Lt. Lew's name appears on the Wall in Washington DC and is located at panel 3W, Row 99. He is also remembered at the Veterans Peace Memorial with his name engraved on a plaque. He was the last person to die in Vietnam who was considered a resident of Chula Vista. 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>

Victor Lew is remembered by his friends for “his concern for his men”, and is considered a hero by those who knew him well. . In 2006, the City of Chula Vista and the McMillin Housing Development honored Victor Lew by having a street named in his honor in the Lomas Verdes subdivision.

