



Leon Paul Tridle (1950 – 1970)

by Spencer Penelooza

War, not words can describe what "hell" it is, but even in the darkest of times there were people who stand strong, some of these people gave their life for peace. In the past, there have been people who protected the U.S. and maybe the world. These Soldiers are courageous to say the least, but also they have a special something that made them go into war without second thought. The Vietnam War for example was one war, in which many died in the name of peace, but with their sacrifices they help many people live and help generations of the future live in a better world.

Leon Paul Tridle was sadly one of the people who died in the Vietnam War. He was born on December 10, 1950, and before the war lived in Chula Vista, California. He lived at 172 E. Orlando, Chula Vista and attended Castle Park High School. He joined the Army in January 1967 and was initially stationed at Ft. Ord where he met his wife Michelle. They married on September 27, 1969, and he was sent to Vietnam in March 1970. He served in the Army Division as a Fourth Class Specialist (E4). Tridle was a man in his late teens at the time of the war. He enjoyed music, and was in the Junior High School and High School bands. Considered an accomplished cellist, he attended a special class at Grossmont College and took private lessons to improve his skill of music. He also enjoyed chess and belonged to the Boys Club.

When the war started, he was assigned to Tay Ninh in South Vietnam. As the war went on, Tridle did his best to help the cause of stopping the war, as did many others in his division. Unfortunately, a peaceful ending to the war was not to happen in his lifetime. The family was told that Leon Tridle had been pushed off a cliff while driving a light armored vehicle by the driver behind him whilst they were being shelled in April of 1970. He was found ten days later in his vehicle wounded and injured, and died on August 30, 1970 of those wounds. Leon was 19 years old. He was bringing ammo for his comrades. He died in the line of duty.

His Social Security Number is 547-84-1486 and it was issued in California. Following Johnson, Saum and Knobel mortuary services, SP4 Tridle was buried at the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, CA. His grave is located at Plot: X 2806-A. He was buried on September 10, 1970. His name appears on the WALL in Washington DC at Panel 7 West, Row 25. In addition, his name appears at the San Diego Peace Memorial in Balboa Park, and a street in Chula Vista is named in his honor. 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>.

He is survived by his wife (Michelle) and son, Leon Paul Jr; mother Mrs. Constance Tridle and sisters Noel, Jacqueline, and Patricia, and brothers, Joseph and Rene, of Chula Vista.

