

VIETNAM WAR HEROES by Enid Hinkes (60)

PFC Steven Dawson – WHS, June 1966

No Photo found

Steven Dawson was born on March 11, 1948. His parents were Aubertus and Margaret Dawson. The 1950 census showed the family living at 95 Hunterdon Street. He was described by classmate Maxine Feinblatt Saffel as a “kind soul, loving with a great sense of humor. He respected everyone...”

Steven served in company A 39th Engineer Battalion, 45th engineer Group, 18th engineer Brigade. He was killed in Quang Tin Province on September 17, 1968 and buried at Glendale Cemetery, Bloomfield, NJ. He received the Purple Heart.

SP4 Michael Dewitt Swangin – WHS June 1964



From the Legend: “‘Mike the Magnificent’ hopes to be graduated as an accountant from Howard University or Villanova University and then to become a C.P.A. He enjoys bowling, baseball, football, and, after all this physical exercise, has quite a healthy appetite.”

Michael was born on May 11, 1946 to Thomas and Florence Swangin. He had a sister Patricia and a brother Thomas. The 1950 census showed that they lived at 159 James Street. He was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights.

Michael served in the 25th Infantry, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, B Company. He was killed on November 19, 1966. He was the assistant machine gunner. He and the gunner, who was also killed, were manning a M-60 to protect the others in his company. He died at Dragon Crater, Pleiku Province, South Vietnam. Michael is buried at Glendale Cemetery, Bloomfield, NJ. He received the Purple Heart.

Major Robert Henry Mirrer - June 1956



From the Legend: "He doth stride the narrow world like a Colossus"
Class Council, Track Team, Football Team

Robert lived at 273 Meeker Street. His parents were Michael and Fannie Mirrer. He had an older brother Melvin. Bob was married in 1967 to Pamela Westlake. After graduating from Weequahic, he attended the Newark College of Engineering where he was in ROTC, and graduated in 1960. Marty Hoffman, who attended NCE with Bob, remembered him as "gregarious and pleasant, well liked and clever."

Robert joined the Air Force in 1962. At the time of his death, he was a member of the 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing. On January 17, 1971 he was flying a flack suppression mission in support of gunships over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos when his aircraft was hit on return. Both he and his back seat Radar Inceptor Officer ejected in the South China Sea off of South Vietnam. The RIO was rescued but Bob could not be found. He was listed as Missing in Action and later presumed dead.

Bob was memorialized at the Courts of the Missing in the Honolulu Memorial, Hawaii and the Soldiers Chapel, Big Sky Mountain, Montana. Bob received the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as the Purple Heart.