



3rd Marine Division



13th Marine Regiment Artillery

Private First Class Curtis Burke Bugger

Curtis Burke Bugger, a son of Charles Burke and Wilma Saxton Bugger, was born on October 12, 1948, in Coalville, Utah. He attended North Summit High School (1964-65) and Cyprus High School.

He joined the Marine Corps in March, 1967. He trained in San Diego, California and after completing his basic training, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 13th Marine Regiment (Artillery), 3rd Marine Division. He entered the conflict in Vietnam on October 12, 1967. The four batteries in the unit were A, B, C, and W. He was a member of Battery W.

Khe Sanh was a major base in the northwest part of South Vietnam near the demilitarized zone (DMZ). His unit was ordered to take two guns to the top of Hill 861 and assist a company of the 26th Marines. Hill 861 was the highest mountain near Khe Sanh. It was critical to control it to prevent the enemy from using it as a position for mortar and artillery attacks on the base. Soon after getting the artillery pieces into position, the unit was attacked and he was killed on January 21, 1968.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, four brothers; Dennis, Kerry Jo, Danny, and John; and two sisters; Robyn and Mrs. Kaney (Vicki) Loader and two Grandmothers, Mrs. Annie Bugger and Mrs. Florence Saxton.

The 3rd Marine Division was activated on September 16, 1942 at Camp Elliot, California. The official colors of the Marine Corps are scarlet and gold. The division patch is triangular shaped so that it has three points. The center contains a Caltrop that was used to stop cavalry charges. A caltrop has four points and when it is placed on the ground three of the points can be seen. The 13th Marine Regiment was an infantry regiment in World War I. In World War II, it was reactivated as an artillery regiment on December 11, 1943. It was reactivated again for the Vietnam War. It was originally a part of the 5th Marine Division, thus the "V" in the patch. The "V" also stands for "Victory". The blue spearhead signifies the role played by the Marine Corps Divisions in spearheading amphibious operations. The cannons represent the artillery.