



Marion S. Lipinski

October 1, 1946 - November 11, 2017

Marion Lipinski, age 71, of Needville, TX passed away on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017. He died at Memorial Hermann in Sugar Land, TX approximately 48 hrs after being released from a 28-day hospitalization at Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Medical Center in Houston.

Marion was a Vietnam Veteran, Specialist 4th Class, US Army. He began his first eight weeks of Basic Training at Fort Polk, LA, and completed Combat Training at Fort Lewis, WA. While serving in Vietnam 1966-1967 he was in the 35th Combat Engineers and later in the 20th Combat Engineers. He served at the Army Special Forces Camp in Duc Co (pronounced Dew Co near the Cambodian border), Kontum, Qui Nhon, and Plei Djereng Special Forces camp where in 1966 the 20th Engineers built a new airstrip. Pleiku was Marion's base camp. During Marion's tour he was briefly hospitalized in "China Beach" Cam Ranh Bay. His date of separation was 11-4-1967, and he received an honorable medical discharge 5-20-1970. Marion received the Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Weapons Sharpshooter Medal with Rifle Qualification Bar.

Marion was not always proud of his military service due to public opinion of the Vietnam War during the 1960's and 1970's. Upon returning to the United States, allowed only a short sleeve shirt to wear in winter, and being spit on at

the West Coast airport by war protesters, he had no reason to speak about his time served. Veterans were known as “baby killers.” After Marion reached his home town Needville, he was outright surprised at a local downtown cafe, when the lady owner said that because he was a Veteran, she would pay for his burger.

Marion began civilian life again in 1967, working as a machinist in the plug valve division at WKM in Missouri City, and in 1982 his division was bought by J.M. Huber and relocated to Tomball, TX. Marion retired in 2008. Marion received Perfect Attendance Certificates as he was always punctual, rarely missing work. In his early employment, his co-workers would throw styrofoam coffee cups at the safety shields on his machines, just to watch him panic and duck, then they would laugh at and mock him. Marion could not escape the Vietnam ridicule, and his mental anguish was later diagnosed by the Veterans Administration as Combat-Related PTSD. He drank alcohol as a release from combat nightmares, which only intensified his anger toward the government and others. He had a hard time relating to non-combat individuals. Marion not only was exposed to Agent Orange, they regularly sprayed it around the perimeter of base camp. He sent home white T-shirts and briefs for his mother to tie-dye green. When he got them back, they would be camouflaged while drying on bushes in the Central Highlands jungle.

How could anyone never there possibly know anything about combat? One of Marion’s tragic images was a best buddy, football playing partner, being blown up in a jeep hitting a land mine. Cleaning up after attacks it was such hell that survivors couldn’t sort out body parts, and thought nothing of dropping two left arms in the same body bag. Marion had nightmares about “Graves Registration” where soldier remains are prepared for possible identification.

Marion tried getting help at the VA for Agent Orange exposure and was entered into a registry for physical and mental testing that he completed in the

1970's. But with so many Vietnam veterans returning, all their claims for wounds and cries for help were denied. Their records were "lost" in Vietnam or "burned" in St. Louis Permanent Storage. By 1988 the US began to have "Welcome Home" parades and Vietnam Veterans started getting recognition. In the 1990's Marion reduced his drinking, life improved. Then 36 years after his discharge, Marion met Humberto (Bert) Romero of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). Bert's members were similar, had things in common, could help each other with cutting red tape, and could relate with Marion. In 2006 Marion began regular meetings and had perfect monthly attendance for over 11 years. He never missed a Forget-Me-Not Fund Drive that assists veterans and their families. Marion made tight friendships with a few DAV members, and he looked forward to seeing them at meetings. They grieved with each other when a member died, and Marion became an active uniformed DAV Honor Guard member to serve at funerals. Marion continued having combat nightmares until he died. But his life was better because he knew DAV members that had equivalent experiences.

Marion's best forever lifetime-childhood friend is Sonny Hackstedt of Fairchilds, TX, and wife Vickie Hackstedt was closer than a sister. Marion was a loyal Dallas Cowboys fan and enjoyed watching games with Martha Barosh and Skinner Satsky. Marion was a member of the American Legion for 46 years, a Life Time Member of the VFW, and a Life Time Member of the DAV. He is preceded in death by his parents Stanley and Theresa Lipinski of Needville. He is survived by Verna Lipinski his wife of 47 years, sister Elizabeth and husband A.J. of Sweet Home, TX, sister Janice Fenske and husband Mike of Needville, and sister Jeanette Migl and husband Matt of Needville.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, November 16, 2017 in the Chapel at Davis Greenlawn Funeral Home at 2:00 P.M. with burial to follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1:00

P.M. until service time.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Park

3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Tribute Wall

AN

“ I did not know Mr.Lipinski, but I could feel his pain through the well articulated description. That is one of the saddest obituaries I have ever read. My heart breaks for his suffering and for those like Mr. Lipinski. May God rest your soul...you so deserve peace. Thank you for your sacrifice to our country.

My condolences to his loved ones.

Sincerely.

Anna La Perna

anna - November 19, 2017 at 10:32 PM

PS

“ Thank you Marion for serving our Country.
May you Rest in Peace.



Pat Schimara - November 16, 2017 at 09:31 AM

CP

“ My condolences to the family. I considered Marion a good friend. I had the enjoyment of working with him side-by-side for 20yrs. at WKM. Both being Veterans we had a special tie. Reading his life tribute in the paper this morning I recalled that I had already heard some of those stories. He was a remarkable person

Gilbert Perez

Carmen Perez - November 15, 2017 at 08:14 PM

EV

“ My condolences to Verna and Marion's family. Very sorry for your loss. I didn't know Marion very well but I do know that as a combat veteran, he was escorted into heaven by God's angels and will now rest in peace next to Jesus. I will not be able to attend the funeral, but I will be praying for his soul and for the family's healing during this time of mourning. Rest in Peace.

Efrain Villagomez Brother-In-Arms.

Efrain Villagomez - November 15, 2017 at 06:39 PM

RM

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Rev. Ralph Marchesano - November 15, 2017 at 02:37 PM

RM

Cmdr. Robert Delgado and Marion Lipinski laying the DAV wreath at the Fort Bend County Veterans Memorial

Rev. Ralph Marchesano - November 15, 2017 at 03:40 PM

RM

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Rev. Ralph Marchesano - November 15, 2017 at 02:28 PM

MK

“ *Mary Kramer lit a candle in memory of Marion S. Lipinski*



Mary Kramer - November 15, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. It broke my heart to read about his early employment after coming back from the war. I didn't know the family, but after reading the obituary, I just had to write and say that I am so happy he is at peace now. I wish I could have thanked him for his service to our country and know how I appreciated it. I am so grateful that his wife was by his side for 47 years. I know this wasn't easy for her to see someone you love be haunted by things he was asked to do for his country but also not receive the help he needed. My prayers are with you.....May Our Lord wrap His loving arms around you and comfort you. Our deepest sympathy.*

Phyllis Venghaus - November 15, 2017 at 08:04 AM

BV

“ Sorry to hear about your loss, except for class of 65 reunions did not see Marion much, but while in school we always had lots of fun. He was always in the middle of stuff. He will be missed by many but never forgotten.

bob Vacek - November 15, 2017 at 07:16 AM

CC

“ I didn't know Mr Lipinski, but I graduated in 1968. I know what it feels like to watch my friends go to Vietnam and not come back. I also heard such devastating stories about their experiences. It is a miracle anyone could survive the war or the life afterwards. I hope he has the peace he should have had in life.
CBC

Carol Corbin - November 14, 2017 at 11:42 PM

RM

“ As a life member of the Disabled American Veterans of Fort Bend County, Marion was a faithful volunteer and servant to his fellow veterans. From volunteering on fundraisers to cohosting our annual Christmas party at the Veterans Administration Hospital nursing home, he was always there. During the seven years I was commander of the Fort Bend DAV all I had to do was to pick up the phone and call him. He attended and volunteered at memorial services and funerals for his comrades and provided coffee and snacks at all our chapter meetings. Marion lived a fruitful life, worked hard and like many veterans with PTSD suffered in silence. For many years Marion and his wife Verna were examples to other veterans and were looked up to by many; as they gave of themselves to others. Our DAV chapter, our community and our country have lost another patriot. I thank God for the opportunity of getting to know him and to work with him at the DAV. Marion will be missed and I will personally feel the loss of his passing.
Rev. Ralph J. Marchesano

Rev. Ralph J. Marchesano - November 14, 2017 at 11:13 PM

RK

“ I remember Marion. He didn't know it, but I looked up to him. He was always willing to help me as I was younger. I went to school with his sister Elizabeth. I didn't know he suffered so much, but I know others who have. He will always be the older guy in HS that I looked up to.

R. D. Krejci - November 14, 2017 at 10:14 PM

DR

“ I did not know Marion Lipinski. His obituary caught my eye because he was a soldier that died on Veteran's Day. I read about his service in Vietnam in 1966-67 and thought about my life at that time. I was going into Junior High School and didn't really know anything about war. It's now 2017 and I'm 62 looking back on life. My son is a Marine. He signed up right out of high school in 2005. Coming home for him was much different than it was for Marion. It saddens me our Vietnam Veterans didn't get the support they needed upon coming home. It hurt to think of what Marion had to endure at work from his fellow "citizens". Thank you for sharing the details of the nightmares he lived through. Thank you for bringing this to our attention as a country. I pray others read about the life Marion was able to lead. I was happy to read he had support from others and passed along what he learned. His family and friends will honor him and cherish his memory. I will remember what he experienced and will play this forward....in hopes of helping others. Dear Marion, Thank you for your service and commitment.

Debbie Reno - November 14, 2017 at 02:36 PM



Thank you Marion. Condolences to Marion's family and God be with you. I went to school with him and remember him well. So very sorry he went thru such hell.

Peggy Kunz Martin - November 16, 2017 at 11:24 AM

GB

“ My memory is from working closely with Verna Lipinski at BDP Inc. where she spoke proudly of Marion's military service, and I would like to offer my condolences to Verna and her family at this time.
Sincerely, George C. Bozant

George Bozant - November 14, 2017 at 08:56 AM