

**MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

*Proudly Honors*



**WILLIAM RUSSELL DENNIS III**  
UNITED STATES NAVY

*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT**

**DECEMBER 2024**

*Honoring her Brother's Service and Sacrifice*

*Written by Dee Ann Boucher*

*Sponsored by: Prairie Chapter, NSDAR*



Born July 7, 1946, to

William Russell Dennis, Jr., and Inez Rae (Petty) Dennis

Died March 18, 1967, near Nhà Bè, Vietnam



My brother, William Russell Dennis, III, nicknamed "Bill," was born on July 7, 1946, in Horton, Kansas, the fourth of six children of parents William Russell Dennis, Jr., and Inez Rae (Petty) Dennis. Bill graduated from Lawrence, Kansas, high school in 1964. "Uncle Bill" was a favorite of my three preschoolers who loved his sweet and gentle nature. He had been a paper boy for the Lawrence newspaper and was active in sports and clubs in high school. He attended Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas, for a while, but did not want to borrow money to continue; so, he enlisted in the Navy.

After basic training, he attended Amphibious Command School. He volunteered for duty in Vietnam so that a classmate who was married and had a family would not have to be deployed there. He was serving with the US Navy Amphibious Detachment assigned to river patrol at

the time of his death near Nhà Bè, Vietnam. He was struck by sniper fire from along the river bank.

It was a Sunday morning when the family was notified of my brother's death. My husband and I and our children had arrived at my parent's home a short time earlier with the plan to drive my grandmother to my aunt's home for the day. As a result, my family, my parents, my

grandmother, two sisters, and a brother were all in the living room as the military car arrived and two Naval officers came to the front door. As we saw them approach, it was as if we knew immediately what their message would be. The happy day suddenly became a day of grief and sorrow. Another sister arrived within the hour.



For his service, Seaman Apprentice William Russell Dennis, III, received the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon Bar, The National Defense Service Medal, and the Purple Heart Medal.



His medals were given to our family posthumously.

