

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



EDWIN LEVI CRAFT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
LANCE CORPORAL (E-3)
DECEMBER 9, 1966 – AUGUST 29, 1969
WOUNDED IN ACTION, MARCH 4, 1968



as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
JUNE 2025

Cathy Sailor and Aimee Moore Honoring His Service and Sacrifice
Sponsored by: Prairie Chapter, NSDAR



Edwin Levi Craft was such a happy, loving, talented young person. I am privileged to say he was my cousin. The family called him "Tim," and he was five years older than me. He was a favorite of mine. I have many memories of him playing the guitar while my Uncle Herb played the piano, while the family listened or sang. He was quite the guitarist, and he actually was an opening guitarist for Chet Atkins.

However, we were growing up during the Vietnam War Era. On December 9, 1966, Edwin joined the United States Marine Corps. I have always been so proud of him, and to me, he was a hero. The United States government agrees with me, as he received a Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal, and two National Defense Medals.

Edwin was in the 3rd Marine Division (Reinforced), and the Presidential Unit Citation recalls extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty against the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces in the Republic of Vietnam from March 1965 to September 1967. Throughout this period, the 3rd Marine Division, operating in the five northernmost provinces of the Republic of Vietnam, successfully executed its three-fold mission of occupying and defending key terrain, seeking out and destroying the enemy, and conducting an intensive pacification program. Operating in an area bordered by over 200 miles of South China Sea coastline, the mountainous Laotian

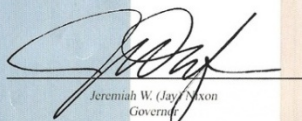
border, and the Demilitarized Zone, the 3rd Marine Division successfully executed eighty major combat operations. In addition to these major operations, more than 125,000 offensive counter guerrilla actions, ranging from squad patrols and ambushes to company-sized search and destroy operations, were conducted in both the coastal rice lands and the mountainous jungle inland. In numerous operations, the 3rd Marine Division demonstrated great efficacy in combined operations with units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

STATE OF MISSOURI VETERANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM


Presents This Certificate To

Cpl Edwin L. Craft
United States Marine Corps

*On behalf of the State of Missouri and the
United States of America, you are hereby recognized for
your bravery, selfless service and dedication in serving
our country during the Vietnam War.*


Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nelson
Governor




Robin Carnahan
Secretary of State

In July 1966, the 3rd Marine Division moved to the north to counter major elements of the North Vietnamese Army moving across the Demilitarized Zone into the Province of Quang Tri; its units fought a series of savage battles against the enemy, repeatedly distinguishing themselves and, time and again, forcing the enemy to retreat across the Demilitarized Zone. Imbued with an unrelenting combat spirit and initiative and undeterred by heavy hostile artillery and mortar fire, extremely difficult terrain, incessant heat, and monsoon rains, the 3rd Marine Division, employing courageous ground, heliborne, and amphibious assaults, complemented by intense and accurate air, artillery and naval gunfire support, inflicted great losses on the enemy and denied him the political and military victory he sought to achieve at any cost. The outstanding courage, resourcefulness, and aggressive fighting spirit of the officers and men of the 3rd Marine Division in battle after battle against a well-equipped and well-trained enemy, often numerically superior in strength, and the great humanitarianism constantly shown to the peoples of the Republic of Vietnam, reflected great credit upon the Marine Corps and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

What the above narrative does not tell you is that on March 4, 1968, Edwin was sitting in his tent writing a letter to me when a grenade exploded in his tent. He was seriously injured and taken to a hospital with numerous injuries. As he remained unconscious, no one knew his name. He was listed as missing in action for six months before he was able to communicate and get word to his family that he was alive. That six months of not knowing where he was and if he was alive was a living hell for my Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Herbert. Tim later said he could not even see when he first became conscious. He did return home eventually. He worked as a machinist for the railroad before his retirement. He continued to be a talented guitar player. He enjoyed motorcycles and was a member of the "Rolling Thunder" motorcycle group; he enjoyed fishing and building things.



I am sad to report that on August 29, 2021, he succumbed to COVID-19 and went to his heavenly home. His Purple Heart and other medals are in a display case in the home of his daughter, Aimee Moore, as he wanted his medals to go to his grandsons. In all, he left 3 daughters, a loving partner, eleven grandchildren, numerous family members who adored him, and an untold number of others that he helped in so very many ways.