

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*



**LARRY GUY GRAHAM**

**UNITED STATES ARMY**

**SPECIALIST 4 (E-4)**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 1966 – SEPTEMBER 25, 1968**

**WOUNDED IN ACTION DECEMBER 6, 1967**

*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT**

**JULY 2025**

*Honoring His Service and Sacrifice*

*Sponsored by: Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR*



Specialist 4 Larry Guy Graham, of Higginsville, Missouri, was drafted into the United States Army on September 26, 1966. He entered service in Kansas City, Missouri, and graduated from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood. Upon successful completion of basic training, he traveled to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for Advanced Infantry Training. On March 1, 1967, after finishing infantry training, he was deployed to Vietnam.

SPC-4 Graham had trained to be a mortarman, but upon arrival to Vietnam, it was determined he was needed to serve in a recon squadron instead. His mission as a recon scout involved deploying in small, elite teams to gather intelligence on enemy positions and movements. These missions often took him deep inside enemy lines. Through stealthy movements and targeted observation, he enabled U.S. operations involving large numbers of U.S. soldiers to safely maneuver.

There is no way to measure the true impact SPC-4 Graham's reconnaissance had in regard to how many lives were saved. In his opinion, he did not do anything special. But, the selflessness and courage he exhibited while conducting combat operations, speaks volumes. The intelligence he gathered as well as the raids and ambushes he took part in disrupted enemy activities and undoubtedly saved American lives.

On December 6, 1967, while on one of his many dangerous missions, SPC-4 Graham was wounded. At the time, he was a Platoon Sergeant leading a patrol along the Cambodian border, just northwest of Saigon (known now as **Ho Chi Minh City**). The patrol came upon a clearing of burnt elephant grass. Knowing this clearing could be an area for the enemy to set up an ambush, he broke the Platoon into two squads,

and they moved forward on either side of the clearing. Without warning, enemy fire erupted and the Platoon's radio operator was mortally wounded, right beside SPC-4 Graham. He drew a grenade from his belt but did not have the space to throw it. He gave the grenade to a fellow soldier who threw it toward the enemy fire. To their surprise, an enemy grenade came to them at the same time.

SPC-4 Graham sustained a serious leg injury from the shrapnel that required a month and a half of treatment. After recovery, without hesitation, he went right back to the front line. He continued his duty until his tour was up, about a month later. For his bravery and sacrifice, he was awarded several medals. They include: the Purple Heart Medal, Army Valorous Unit Citation Award, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, Republic of



Vietnam (RVN) Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Civil Action Medal First Class Unit Medal. He also received the Vietnam Campaign Medal with an M-60 Machine Gun Device, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, One Overseas Service Bar, a Marksman Badge M-14 Rifle, and a Marksman Badge Pistol - CAL.45.

SPC-4 currently resides in rural Higginsville with his wife. He has a 52-year-old son who lives in Harrison, Arkansas. He enjoys spending time with his family and relaxing in the sunroom.