

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*



**PHILLIP JOHN NORTON**  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
CAPTAIN (O-3)  
JANUARY 1968 – AUGUST 1971

WOUNDED IN ACTION  
*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT**  
**JULY 2025**

*Honoring His Service and Sacrifice*  
*Sponsored by: Hannah Hull Chapter, NSDAR*



Phillip J. Norton enlisted in the United States Army in January 1968 and served honorably until he processed out in August of 1971.

Captain Norton's father served 27 years in the United States Army and was an influential reason for his enlisting he also stated, "It was the right thing to do".

Basic and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) training was at Fort Dix, New Jersey, Officer Candidate School (OCS) Infantry training, Airborne Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Special Forces training at John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

After completing OCS training, he was promoted to Specialist 5, and then 2nd Lieutenant after Airborne Training. He left the service in August 1971 with the rank of Captain.

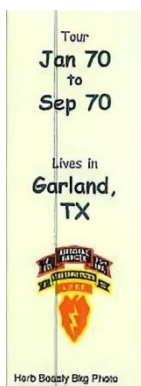
Captain Norton was stationed in Vietnam from September 1969 until August 1971. He was part of the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol, a heavily armed reconnaissance team that patrolled deep in enemy-held territory. He was wounded, receiving a purple heart, and after he recovered from his injuries, returned to his unit. An illustration of himself and another soldier helping a wounded man to the waiting helicopter is attached. This event occurred after he was wounded and returned to his unit.

Captain Norton comes from a very patriotic family; his brother served 25 years in the Air Force, his son, John was a Marine, son Joshua served in the Air Force. Captain Norton's father served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; at one time he

and his father were both stationed in Vietnam serving the United States Army.

In a memoir about his service in Vietnam, he wrote "Hero's are not born but are made out of the necessity of the moment. All who perform an action thought to be heroic, above and beyond the call of duty, will tell you that what they did was because of the demands of the moment."

Thank you for your service to our country, Captain Norton!



Phillip John Norton served as a Ranger in F. Company 75th Infantry (Rangers) for the period shown above. My Vietnam service was from September 1969 to August 1971.

### ***Centaur 2-3 rescues Tropical Rangers***

Inserted to destroy an enemy radio transmitter in the Renegade Woods, northwest of Saigon, on April 2, 1970, Teams 3-8 and 3-9 F Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry found themselves in the midst of strongly entrenched elements of the 271<sup>st</sup> VC/NVA Regiment. After defending themselves for over an hour against this much larger enemy force, the beleaguered Rangers were amazed to see a Huey, code-named Centaur 2-

3, land near the lip of the bomb crater in which they were dug in.

The painting recreates the moment when First Lieutenant Phillip Norton and Sergeant Fred Stuckey dragged badly wounded Specialist 4 Donald Tinney towards the helicopter, as Specialist 4 Donald Purdy runs to assist. Pilot Captain Philip Tocco fires his .38 revolver through an open window at the advancing NVA troops. Seconds later, door gunner Private First Class Richard Adams leaped out and, between them, the four men passed Tinney up into the aircraft.

After spending a total of 30 seconds on the ground the overloaded Huey strained and shuddered and finally lifting off, cleared the treeline with 11 Rangers and its crew of four aboard.

*Painting by Richard Hook*

