

O F H S



WALL OF FAME

Inducted November 11, 1999



ROGER WILLIAM GREETAN

Roger was born January 28, 1947, in Oconto Falls, to John and Christine Greetan. He graduated from Oconto Falls High School in 1966. In high school, Roger distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete starring in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was drafted into the Army on September 28, 1966. He reported for basic training at Fort Polk, LA. While home on leave Roger married his high school sweetheart Dolores Kowalczyk on December 28, 1966.

Roger's tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam began on March 8, 1967. As a Private First Class E-3 in company B 1st Battalion 2nd Infantry of the U.S. Army, he was serving as assistant machine-gunner. On July 18, 1967 the Company was on a search and destroy mission northeast of Bien Hoa. An insurgent base camp had been discovered, and after an hour of intense artillery bombardment of enemy positions, his unit moved to occupy the camp. They were taken under intense claymore mine and automatic weapons fire from many well concealed positions. PFC Greetan without hesitation moved forward with his gunner to get into a more advantageous firing position. Ignoring the vicious Viet Cong fire, Roger assisted in laying down effective cover fire for evacuation of friendly casualties. Soon thereafter, the ammunition supply began to run low. Roger discovered that the ammunition bearer had been wounded and quickly went to his aid. He pulled his comrade through withering automatic crossfire to a place where he could be treated and evacuated. He then returned to the line, obtained some ammunition and brought it to the machine gun position. Realizing that the supply was inadequate, PFC Greetan once again braved the hostile fire in search of additional ammunition. Ignoring repeated warnings to take cover, Greetan was mortally wounded while returning to his machine gun emplacement with ammunition.

Private First Class Greetan's unquestionable valor against a numerically superior hostile forces is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and his country.

By direction of the President, Roger W. Greetan was awarded posthumously the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star for meritorious service, the Purple Heart for mortal wounds received in action. He also received the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palms by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

Roger's son was born 78 days after he was killed in action. Oconto Falls High School has honored Roger by establishing the Roger W. Greetan Athlete Award which is given each year to a graduating senior who most exemplifies all-around athletic proficiency, character, and dedication. The City of Oconto Falls has honored Roger by establishing the Roger W. Greetan Memorial Park on the site of his birthplace and boyhood home. Dedication of the park and monument was held on Memorial Day, 1992. On the monument is inscribed these words: "Always remembered for his athletic ability and giving of his life for his country."