

O F H S



WALL OF FAME

Inducted May 27, 2018



ROBERT JOHN BENEDICT

Robert John Benedict was born on February 9, 1950 and was the only child of his parents, John and Ann Benedict. He was raised on the family farm in Little Suamico, Wisconsin.

While attending Oconto Falls High School, Robert participated in the FFA program for four years, was a member of the track team for two years, and enjoyed taking Industrial Arts classes.

He was often described as quiet and reserved and was dedicated to working on the family farm. Robert graduated from Oconto Falls High School with the Class of 1968.

Robert volunteered for military service on August 14, 1968 as a member of the United States Army. Upon completion of his training, he was granted a 25-day leave to spend time with his parents over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Robert began his tour of duty for the Army Selective Service on January 17, 1969 as a helicopter gunner with A Company 2/8 Cavalry - 1st Cavalry Division. As an Infantryman, PFC Benedict was a Light Weapons Specialist and earned the rank of Private First Class (PFC). Robert gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country on March 8, 1969 in South Vietnam, just 51 days after being enlisted. Records indicate that upon leaving his aircraft to help pick up wounded soldiers, PFC Benedict was struck down by enemy fire. Robert died just one month after his 19th birthday, serving his country and protecting our freedom.

Robert is one of 58,300 military service personnel found in the historical archive for United States servicemen who were killed (KIA) or missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam War.

He is honored on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. on panel 30w, line 71. Robert is also honored on the Vietnam Veterans Wall of Faces website. Beneath his photo, there is a quote written by fallen soldier Major Michael Davis O'Donnell from a letter that he had sent home - "If you are able, save them for a place inside of you...and save one backward glance when you are leaving for the places they can no longer go...Be not ashamed to say you love them...Take what they have left and what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own...And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind..."

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