

## ESPRIT DE CORPS, NEVER FORGET

**A partial re-post from 2020:** Let's honor a brave Marine by remembering his ultimate sacrifice this Memorial Day.

### **Sergeant Gary Keith More, USMC**

**Born:** Ontario, Canada, November 13, 1946

**Killed in Action:** Dien Ban, Quang Nam Province, August 30, 1970

**Vietnam Memorial:** Panel 7W / Row 24

Gary entered service in the United States Marine Corps on May 12, 1969, at Detroit, Michigan. He arrived in Vietnam on November 29, 1969, where he was assigned to the 2nd Combined Action Group, III Marine Amphibious Force, serving as platoon leader of CAP 2-3-2, located near Hoi An, between Danang and Chu Lai.

CAPs (Combined Action Platoons) were usually mobile units, while some rifle squads manned small and remote outpost garrisons, where Marines would live, train, and patrol with local Vietnamese Nghia Quan. A squad of Marines would be assigned to hamlets and villages that had a high enemy presence to work with their counterparts, while instilling a fighting spirit within these local barefoot militias. Together, we were entrusted with a mandate to prevent the infiltration of enemy troops into the villages, and to protect families from our mutual foes, the Viet Cong, and North Vietnamese Army.

On August 30, three grenades were thrown into the Combined Action Platoon's patrol location situated 500 meters east of the Dien Ban District Headquarters in Quang Nam Province. Two US Marines and their US Navy Corpsman were wounded by the explosions and were evacuated for medical treatment. One of the casualties was Sergeant Gary More who died later that day at the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Danang as a result of the multiple fragmentation wounds he sustained.

Microchips bearing the name Sergeant Gary Keith More, USMC, are in outer space onboard the Stardust Spacecraft, and another set is back on Earth. Stardust was launched on February 7, 1999, carrying the two sets of microchips. Two copies of each chip were installed on the spacecraft (for a total of four chips). One set of microchips was mounted inside the Sample Return Capsule and was returned to Earth when it landed in Utah, on January 15, 2006. The capsule along with the microchips were transported to the curatorial facility at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on January 17, 2006, where they currently reside. The other set of chips, mounted in the spacecraft body, will remain in space forever. "Esprit de Corps" NEVER FORGET!

Remember all military personnel that laid down their lives in America's Wars this Memorial Day. Revolutionary War (1775-1783) **25,000**; War of 1812 (1812-1813) **15,000**; Mexican American War (1846-1848) **13,283**; American Civil War (1861-1865) **655,000**; Spanish-American War (1898) **2,446**; World War I (1914-1918) **116,708**; World War II (1939-1945) **407,316**; Korean War (1950-1953) **36,516**; Vietnam War (1959-1975) **58,209**; Gulf War (1990-1991) **382**; Iraq War (2003-2011) **4,497**; War in Afghanistan (2001-2021) more than **6,809**.

Semper Fidelis

### *Chaplain Ren*

