



JACK D. HEDGLIN
SGT. – U.S. ARMY
VIETNAM WAR

Jack D. Hedglin entered the U.S. Army on December 10, 1963 and started basic training and AIT. By August 16th 1965 he was on his way to the front lines of the Vietnam War. His daughter Joanne relates that her Dad didn't talk much about his time in Vietnam except that it rained constantly and when it didn't rain he & his men were rained on by the spray planes dropping the herbicide Agent Orange to defoliate areas in which they were having trouble with ambush by the Viet Cong. He knew it was some powerful herbicide & it was needed at the time, but little did he know how much damage it would cause in later life for so many veterans (including himself).

On July 28, 1966 Sgt. Hedglin left Vietnam and headed back to the United States where he decided he would stay in the Army and he took a position as an Army Recruiter in the Sharon, PA Recruiting office until December 15, 1972 (a total of 9 years of service). During that career he earned several Army Commendation Awards as Top Recruiter – (13 Awards) in 1968–1972, as he increased enlistments by literally hundreds per month at points during that time period. In addition to the Commendations he was also the recipient of the Rifleman's Badge, Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star with oakleaf cluster for meritorious Service, Combat Infantry Badge and several Commendations as Top Recruiter.

Sgt. Hedglin began having issues with Agent Orange Exposure related illnesses, two of which were Ischemic Heart Disease and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Hedglin and his family applied for VA Benefits to cover costs related to these ailments but were denied by Veterans' Affairs review boards. Hedglin underwent triple bypass heart surgery related to the Ischemic Heart Disease and on July 15, 1993 died of Agent Orange Exposure related complications.

Twenty-two (22) years after first applying, Sgt Hedglin's widow received notification that the U.S. Army was finally finding that Sgt. Hedglin's death was, in fact, as a result of complications related to "service connected disease".

On July 24, 2015 The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Celebration added Sgt. Jack D. Hedglin's name to the "In Memory Of Honor Roll" in Washington, D.C. – a ceremony his daughter, Joanne Weaver, was able to attend to honor her father. In relating her Washington D.C. trip, she stated "....there are many names of men and women who died in Vietnam on the Vietnam Memorial Wall but there are also many men and women who returned to the U.S. and then died from service connected injuries and they aren't on the Wall. This was a way of remembering my Father and honoring what he gave for his country..... It is a great honor for him to be chosen to be represented in the Mercer Memorial Day 500 Parade".

Sgt Jack D. Hedglin's widow, Eleanor, lives with her daughter Joanne and husband Dennis Weaver just outside Mercer. Sgt. Hedglin also left behind a son, John (Heather), a daughter Rebecca (Robert) McNulty, 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Jack and Eleanor Hedglin also had a son Robert who passed away 2 years ago.