



Miles "Bradley" Hedglin
Spec. 4 – U.S. Army
Vietnam War

Looking through the Grove City High School Year Book for a picture of Miles "Bradley" Hedglin, I found many "Hedglin" family members and then I found the picture of a happy faced young man when he was in 11th grade. This is how so many of his relatives remember him – an easy going, fun loving young kid who enjoyed an evening of playing pool with his friends. Bradley was the son of Russell H. & Edna Mae Hedglin and spent his entire life (up to the time he signed up for the Army) in Grove City, PA. Many of his family members spent time in the service and many of them served their time in Vietnam. Brother, Rodney Hedglin served in Vietnam during the first Tet Offensive in 1967/1968 and his cousin, Sgt. Carl James "Jimmy" Forrester (also a Mercer County Hometown Hero) was the first Mercer County resident to give his life in Vietnam. Bradley was to follow in their footsteps in 1969.

The first leg of his short military career was basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He then shipped out for the destination so many young men did in the late 1960's – the jungles of Vietnam. He was “in country” Vietnam for a short time – 3 months before he was Killed In Action. As shown below, an announcement & recount of that event was received by his family in April of 1969:

The Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart have been awarded posthumously to Miles Bradley Hedglin. The medal was given for heroism in ground combat in Vietnam on March 25 and the Purple Heart was awarded for wounds received in action resulting in his death on that date. This announcement was accompanied by an official accommodation letter which stated “.....On 25 March 1969 Pfc. Hedglin’s platoon was on a combat operation northwest of Kontum City in the Central Highlands when it came in contact with a numerically superior enemy force. Realizing that his unit needed cover to maneuver out of the trap, Hedglin moved to a bomb crater and opened fire on the enemy from his “point” position. As he fired, his men were able to move back and form a new defensive perimeter. Hedglin was fatally wounded in his effort to let his comrades find safety. His selfless concern for his comrades, exceptional courage and exemplary devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army”

Miles Bradley Hedglin served as a rifleman with Company B, 1st Battallion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. He had received the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Expert Badge with rifle bar, and the Marksman Badge with automatic rifle bar in addition to the Posthumously Awarded Bronze Star for Heroism and the Purple Heart. His name appears on the Vietnam Honor Roll located at the Mercer County Courthouse Vietnam Memorial. He is memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Wall at 28W/36.