Dedication of Vietnam Veterans Memorial in SF  
“Honoring SF’s Fallen from Vietnam War”  
Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2016


The San Francisco Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be dedicated at its new spot in the Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11.

Names of the 168 San Franciscans who died in the Vietnam War, from the memorial plaque in the Veterans Building:

SGT Eddie Achica 35 U.S. Army  
TSGT Felizardo Cuenca Aguillon 36 U.S. Air Force  
SFC Albert Kaiwi Akamu 33 U.S. Army  
SSGT Daniel Albert Alegre 21 U.S. Army  
PFC John Moses Ananian 23 U.S. Army  
SGT Gregory Alfred Antunano 22 U.S. Army  
SGT Joseph Gregory Artavia 19 U.S. Army  
PFC Tony Anderson Baker 20 U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Carlos Baldizon-Izquierdo 22 U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Gary Alan Banglos 21 U.S. Army  
SP4 Charles Wesley Barrett 20 U.S. Army  
SSGT Michael M Bartholomew 24 U.S. Army  
SSGT Samuel Wayne Bell 33 U.S. Marine Corps  
SGT Boris Roman Benja Bentley 22 U.S. Army  
LCPL Michael Linn Bianchini 19 U.S. Marine Corps  
CN Martin George Blakely 22 U.S. Navy  
1LT Richard Mcauliffe Bloom 24 U.S. Marine Corps  
SFC Domingo R S Borja 36 U.S. Army  
PFC Joseph Borruso Jr. 20 U.S. Army  
SP4 Theophilus Bowles 21 U.S. Army  
SGT Oscar Dan Boydston 21 U.S. Army  
PFC Murry Lawrence Britton 20 U.S. Marine Corps  
SP4 Franklin Vincent Brodnik 23 U.S. Army  
HM3 Bruce Edward Brown 22 U.S. Navy  
LCPL Leonard Charles Burris 19 U.S. Marine Corps  
CPL Jose Caiquep 25 U.S. Army  
SGT Richard Frederick Campos 26 U.S. Army  
CPL Richard Allan Carlson 20 U.S. Army  
SSGT Donald Scott Carson 32 U.S. Air Force  
SA Peter Chan 20 U.S. Navy  
2LT Gary Richard Clark 20 U.S. Army  
CAPT Robert W Clirehugh Jr. 25 U.S. Army  
PFC Sam Cole Jr. 20 U.S. Marine Corps  
PFC Charles Cook Jr. 25 U.S. Army  
SP4 Robert Reed Criswell 20 U.S. Army
SSGT Kenneth T Cruise Jr. 23 U.S. Army
SA Leon Larry Deal U.S. Navy
COL Ernest Leo De Soto 38 U.S. Air Force
PFC Gregorio Manese Deocampo 23 U.S. Marine Corps
GMG3 Raymond Lee Dock Jr. 22 U.S. Navy
PFC Johnnie Lee Douglas 22 U.S. Army
SP4 Gerald Tyler Douglass Jr. 21 U.S. Army
SP4 Ronald Lloyd Ducommun 19 U.S. Army
SGT Jimmy Lyn Dunagan 23 U.S. Army
SSGT Robert Gerald Elgin 29 U.S. Army
LT Bruce Charles Farrell 28 U.S. Navy
SSGT Alexander Fedoroff 23 U.S. Army
SP4 Ronald Dennis Ferguson 23 U.S. Army
SP4 Ronald Richard Fillmore 20 U.S. Army
SP4 Terence Patric Fitzgerald 27 U.S. Army
GMG2 Patrick Osborne Ford 26 U.S. Navy
SGT Paul Hellstrom Foster 28 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Harry Paul Gamble 23 U.S. Marine Corps
LCPL Marcial Bondoc Garcia 19 U.S. Marine Corps
SN Francis Joseph Garcia U.S. Navy
2LT David Frank Garringer 22 U.S. Marine Corps
SP5 Robert Charles Geiger 28 U.S. Army
SP4 Everett William Goias 20 U.S. Army
SP4 Jose C Gosse 23 U.S. Army
CPL Kenneth Mervin Gray 20 U.S. Army
PFC Raymond Carson Griffiths 19 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Thomas Joseph Guaraldi 20 U.S. Army
CAPT James Kenneth Hall 34 U.S. Marine Corps
LCPL Robert Joseph Henneberg 19 U.S. Marine Corps
SSGT Faleagafula Ilaoa 27 U.S. Air Force
PFC Rudolph Jennings 18 U.S. Marine Corps
CPL Michael Charles Jensen 21 U.S. Army
CPL Anthony Eric Johnson 20 U.S. Army
PVT Floyd Ray Johnson 20 U.S. Army
CAPT James J L Johnson 33 U.S. Army
SSGT Ralph Martin Johnson 33 U.S. Marine Corps
SSGT John William Joys 27 U.S. Marine Corps
SGT James Toshi Kajiwara 20 U.S. Army
CAPT William Daniel Kennedy III 25 U.S. Army
PFC Ludwig Peter Kohler 39 U.S. Army
SGT Leonard William Labowski 22 U.S. Marine Corps
SP4 Leonard Allan Lanzarin 20 U.S. Army
CAPT Peter Swinnerton Larson 25 U.S. Army
PFC George Feodro Lazar 20 U.S. Marine Corps
CPL Eloy Felipe Este Le Blanc 20 U.S. Army
SGT Roy Leo Lede 20 U.S. Air Force
HM3 Earl Roger Lerch 22 U.S. Navy
2LT Gary Wayne Letson 24 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Sai Gin Lew 21 U.S. Army
CPL Max Lieberman 22 U.S. Army
PFC Michael Ayr Lowery 20 U.S. Army
SFC Thomas Albert Lutge 31 U.S. Army
LTC William Affley Lynch Jr 45 U.S. Air Force
SP4 Danny Ray Mack 20 U.S. Army
SGT Robert Lee Mack 43 U.S. Army
PFC George Vincent Martinez 20 U.S. Marine Corps
SGT John Anthony Martinez 21 U.S. Army
CPL Paul Dinnes Martinez Jr. 20 U.S. Army
PVT William Robert McNelly 21 U.S. Army
SGT William James Mc Taggart 27 U.S. Marine Corps
2LT Paul Charles Medlin 24 U.S. Army
LCPL Allan Mendell 21 U.S. Marine Corps
CPL Rene Clarence Mischeaux 20 U.S. Army
SP4 Michael James Monahan 21 U.S. Army
CPL Jimmy Ray Moore 21 U.S. Army
CDR Richard David Morrow 40 U.S. Navy
CPL Jose Munatones Jr. 19 U.S. Army
SGT Vincent Patrick Murphy Jr. 22 U.S. Marine Corps
CPL Alvin Ray Narcisse 19 U.S. Army
SP4 John Arthur Nathan 19 U.S. Army
SGT Elvain Ennis Nious 21 U.S. Army
SP4 Charles William Nurisso 19 U.S. Army
CAPT Denis O Connor 27 U.S. Army
SGT Dennis Kenneth O Connor 20 U.S. Army
CPL Reinaldo Salvador Ortiz 20 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Ceizhar Vale Pagcaliuagan 21 U.S. Army
SSGT Luther Page Jr. 38 U.S. Army
PFC Keila Paopao 20 U.S. Marine Corps
CAPT Ralph Byron Pappas 27 U.S. Marine Corps
LCPL Kenneth Parker 21 U.S. Marine Corps
SP4 John Parnella 22 U.S. Army
2LT Dorris Edward Patton 34 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Joseph Espino Perez 21 U.S. Army
SSGT Samuel Henry Pierce Jr. 37 U.S. Army
HM2 Bob Elia Pogre 21 U.S. Navy
PFC Richard Chester Pratt 21 U.S. Army
PFC Emmett Terence Pringle 18 U.S. Marine Corps
MAJ Edward Beeding Quill Jr. 33 U.S. Air Force
SGT George Michael Ramos 20 U.S. Marine Corps
LCPL Edward Harold Rauch 20 U.S. Marine Corps
MAJ Robert William Reed 34 U.S. Marine Corps
CPL Salvador Ortencio Ricardo 22 U.S. Army
PFC Jose A Rivera 20 U.S. Army
CPL Gary Gene Rodgers 20 U.S. Army
CMS Victor Romero 31 U.S. Air Force
CPL Francisco Leo Samson Jr. 21 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Robert Richard Sandstrom 22 U.S. Army
CAPT John F Santos Jr 30 U.S. Air Force
PFC Joel Luther Schubert 26 U.S. Army
SP4 Steven Rey Segura 20 U.S. Army
SP4 Donald James Smith 19 U.S. Army
BM3 Wiselee Smith 28 U.S. Navy
CWO Odin Edgar Sorensen 49 U.S. Air Force
SP4 Frank Spotwood Jr 20 U.S. Army
COL Theodore Springston Jr. 46 U.S. Air Force
SSGT Michael Forrester Stearns 23 U.S. Army
SP5 Jose Wilfredo Suarez 26 U.S. Army
SP4 Raymond Walter Sullivan 18 U.S. Army
A1C Richard Arellano Supnet 19 U.S. Air Force
LCPL Laavale Fuatau Tagata 26 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Paul Clive O Taylor 19 U.S. Army
PFC Edgar Wayne Thompson 20 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Fred Robert Thorpe 20 U.S. Army
1LT Arthur Richard Timboe 23 U.S. Army
SP4 Dennis Edward Timmons 22 U.S. Army
PFC Matau Toia Jr 19 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC Richard E Tomasini Jr. 19 U.S. Army
SFC Bertalan James Toth 31 U.S. Army
CPL Robert Lee Tyes 25 U.S. Army
COL Russel Keith Utley 44 U.S. Air Force
SGT John Juan Valero 21 U.S. Army
LCPL Arthur Vernon Vigil 21 U.S. Marine Corps
SP4 Patrick Weber 20 U.S. Army
PFC Frank Wells Jr. 18 U.S. Army
LCPL Jeffrey Raymond Wentzell 19 U.S. Marine Corps
PFC William George Wheatley 18 U.S. Marine Corps
SGT Michael Patrick Whelan 20 U.S. Army
SP4 Jeffrey Merle White 21 U.S. Army
SP5 David Charles Williams 21 U.S. Army
A1C Darryl Gordon Winters 27 U.S. Air Force
SP5 Akira Yamashita 38 U.S. Army
SGT Victor Manuel Yanez 21 U.S. Army
CPL Efrain Zuniga Jr, 21, U.S. Army

— Source: American Legion War Memorial Commission

The San Francisco Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be dedicated at its new spot in the Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11.
[Note: I was asked if any of our GW Class of ’63 classmates died in the Vietnam Theater. I found a SF Chronicle article (dated 11/11/16) that had a list of 168 San Franciscans who died in that war. I checked the list with our graduating class list, and didn’t find any of our classmates listed there. So it seems conclusive that none of our classmates died in that war.

http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/schools/gwhs63.htm

George Washington High School (SF)
Commencement Program (Graduating Class)
13 June 1963


However, there was one soldier that I knew on that list – Alexander Fedoroff, who also went to George Washington High School. I wrote a memorial for him.
In Memory of Alexander Fedoroff

by Paul J. Wigowsky

Today is Veterans Day (November 11, 2016), and it seems that every time this special day comes around I can’t help but think of my Vietnam experience. This year it came back a little stronger because I had recently visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC and seen the name of a childhood friend named Alexander Fedoroff on that wall. Memories of Alex cascaded into my mind like a river flowing down rocks and crevices, and I recalled going to the same Russian church on Geary Street in San Francisco, and attending the same George Washington High School. He was a part of the life that I knew until that fateful day in 1968 when I attended his funeral in San Francisco. I went to say good-bye to an old friend. However, there were many unanswered questions that I had about what really happened.

So when I saw the name of Alex’s commanding officer (CO) on the Memorial webpage set up to honor those who were killed in action (KIA), I decided to email him and ask him what he knew about Alex’s final day on earth. Kevin Beaton, Alex’s CO, a first lieutenant, gave me his phone number and I called him. Kevin told me that he met Alex at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, home of the 101st Airborne Division. Kevin was in command of 3rd platoon B Troop, 2/17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Alex was in command of scouts of the Airborne Cav. platoon, which were mostly in charge of gun jeeps with M-60 caliber machine guns on them.

Bien Hoa was where Alex’s journey began. I checked on the map and verified that Bien Hoa was northeast of Saigon. His unit deployed to Song Be in January 1968. The day that Alex was mortally wounded was during the TET offensive of 1968. The terrain was flat and about chest-high in vegetation. Enemy positions were unknown. It was a frontal mounted assault, and the battle was won.

His memory will live on in the hearts of minds of his friends and relatives. And his name will be enshrined forever on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Those that he commanded, and his superiors, have a high regard for his character and command expertise. A better soldier does not exist. Airborne!

Memorial webpages:
http://thewall-usa.com/info.asp?recid=15784
http://www.virtualwall.org/vFedoroffAx01a.htm
http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/15785/ALEXANDER-FEDOROFF


[Acknowledgment: Thanks to Kevin Beaton for his input in this memorial to Alexander Fedoroff.]