

## **Banning, Johnathon Jacques (John), 1st Platoon**

22 March 1943 - 4 November 1973

Arlington National Cemetery, VA

Captain Banning's untimely death occurred on 4 Nov 1973, in Okinawa, Japan as the result of a motorcycle accident.

Captain Johnathon Jacques Banning was born March 22, 1943 in Joplin, Missouri. John graduated from Northwest Missouri State College in June 1967, where he majored in Biology and Sociology. His activities while an under graduate included the track and swimming teams and membership in TAU KAPPA EPSILON social fraternity. Upon receiving a commission as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, Captain Banning was assigned to the Basic School from which he graduated in November 1967. He married Sharon Kay Lucas on November 25, 1967 in North Kansas City, Missouri. They had two sons, Matthew and Benjamin, and maintained their residence in Dale City, Virginia.

Subsequent tours included: student in Tank School, Ft. Knox, Kentucky; First Marine Division, Republic of Vietnam; Headquarters Sixth Marine District; student, Amphibious Warfare School; instructor and student Platoon Commander, the Basic School; Company Commander H & S Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment, Third Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan. Personal decorations of Captain Banning consisted of Silver Star Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Captain Banning's untimely death occurred on November 4, 1973, in Okinawa, Japan as the result of a motorcycle accident. John was interned at Arlington National Cemetery on 13 November 1973, Section 36 Site 1977.

John has a younger brother, Deryll B. Banning, who is also a TBS Marine, '69. Deryll is from Florence, AL. Sharon Kay remarried to a Marine Officer who adopted her two sons.

### **USMC Resume:**

TBS Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 1st Platoon June-Nov 1967

Tank School, Ft. Knox, Kentucky;

First Marine Division, Republic of Vietnam;

Headquarters Sixth Marine District;

Student, Amphibious Warfare School;

Instructor and student Platoon Commander, the Basic School;

Company Commander H & S Company, 2nd Bn, 4th Regiment, 3rd Mar Div, Okinawa, Japan.

Awarded the Silver Star for actions during the Vietnam War:

*The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to **Second Lieutenant John Jacques Banning** (MCSN: 0-102452), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Platoon Commander with Company A, First Tank Battalion, FIRST Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On the evening of 25 May 1968, while occupying a defensive position near Hue, Second Lieutenant Banning's unit was attached to elements of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division when the driver of his tank suddenly observed a large North Vietnamese Army force silently approaching the perimeter and preparing to assault the friendly position. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Second Lieutenant Banning directed his men to wait for the enemy to advance further before*

*commencing fire. When approximately one-half of the enemy had penetrated the perimeter, he directed the delivery of a heavy volume of accurate fire on the hostile force. Ignoring the intense anti-tank rocket fire being directed at his tank, he skillfully utilized a night observation device which enabled him to pinpoint the North Vietnamese soldiers while continuing to direct his tank's suppressive fire, forcing the enemy to flee in panic and confusion. His heroic and timely actions inspired all who served with him and were instrumental in his crew accounting for twelve North Vietnamese soldiers confirmed killed and numerous weapons captured. By his courage, aggressive leadership and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger, Second Lieutenant Banning upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.*

Action Date: May 25, 1968; Service: Marine Corps; Rank: Second Lieutenant; Company: Company A; Battalion: 1st Tank Battalion; Division: 1st Marine Division (Rein.), FMF.

**Personal Reflections about John Banning:**