

Ross, William Gray (Bill / Gray), 4th Platoon

11 October 1945 - 15 June 1968

Fort Donelson Nat'l Cemetery, Dover, TN



William Gray Ross (Gray) was born 11 Oct 1945 in Trigg County Kentucky to Ruben Gray Ross and Cora Pauline Luton. John had one sister, Datha Laverne Ross. Gray's Home of Record is Big Rock, TN which is a few miles south of his birth place.

Gray attended the Tennessee Technical University in Cookeville, TN Class of 1967

Second Lieutenant William Gray Ross is from Big Rock, Tennessee. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served during the Vietnam Conflict. Rank of Second Lieutenant. 2Lt Ross served with 1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, I Company. Service occupation of Infantry Officer. Second Lieutenant Ross died on June 15, 1968 at the age of 23 in or around Quang Nam in South Vietnam during Operation MAMELUKE THRUST. Circumstances of his death are attributed to: "Died through hostile action". He earned the following decorations:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Purple Heart
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal

Second Lieutenant Ross is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, VVM Wall, Panel 57w, Line 31.

USMC Resume:

The Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 4th Platoon, Jun-Nov 1967

1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, I Company. Jan - 15 Jun 1968

Personal Reflections about Gray Ross:

From Jack Powers, 13 Apr 2015: I remember Bill as a quiet Marine who always seemed in good humor. As were we all, he was proud to be a Marine Officer. It was rare to meet a person from the back woods of Tennessee where Bill was raised. Big Rock looks like it is well out of

reach of any major metro area. I knew little about Tennessee beyond the fact it was the home of Davey Crockett and Sgt Alvin York, two outstanding marksmen. This sets up the one event that stands out in my recollection of Bill. While at TBS, there was a range (I believe called the "electric range") that involved a fire and maneuver exercise. One fire team would establish a base of fire while the other elements in the squad maneuvered for a flanking attack. The range was set up with targets that recorded each hit by the base of fire team. JJ O'Brien was the fire team leader and Bill, Bob O'Rourke, and I were members of that team. We completed the exercise and were in the bleachers awaiting the critique as were other squads who competed. The instructor gave the scores for each team, but left ours out. He finally acknowledged our team had broken the course record...by a lot. At that point, I knew that we had our own "Sgt Alvin York" in the name of Bill Ross in 4th Platoon.