

OBITUARY **JIM "MANNY" NELSON**

Nelson, James Manville "Manny"

Age 61, of Spring Park, MN died Friday, February 6, 2009, at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, MN.

He proudly served his country as an Airborne Ranger from Company H of the 75th Inf., 1st Air Cav. Div. in VietNam and retired from the Army as a Staff Sgt. During his service earning among others, two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism, and the Air Medal.

FROM JIM'S SON, ERIC

My father never gave up and never got down. He fought the good fight but God called him home. I wonder how he could live through some of the things I saw him live through only to die as he was doing the best he had all along. It was a cold shot and although I am glad he is no longer suffering I miss him already. I really believed he could beat this...but apparently it was his time. God must have needed a good Radioman.

I wanted to let you Rangers know that the honorable Ranger Bill Jolin and his wonderful wife came to pay their respects to my father at his funeral at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Bill was the ranger that carried my father to the medevac chopper on the 4-10-1969 mission and that was unfortunately the last time he saw my father (though he tried) until he came to help me bury him. It was fitting and really meant a lot to me. It illustrated the kind of man Bill Jolin is- a real Hero. I was delighted to meet the man my father mentioned so many times throughout the years, though it came on the saddest day of my life. Bill and my father underwent ranger training together and entered in the unit together and quickly became buddies, and after meeting dear Bill I can easily understand why.

I also wanted to thank the men from the unit and the men from each Airborne unit of the Army (101st, 82nd, and others) who were present to honor their departed comrade, my father. Again, it meant a lot to me.

I also would like to thank all the rangers who sent messages to me and prayed for my father during his time in poor health. I learned a lot about the kind of man it takes to be a ranger from my father, and all of you rangers proved him right. I have corresponded with some of the most quality individuals over the past year that I ever have, and I hold you all in the highest regard, as I did my father.

The flags were flying over Airborne Row at Ft. Snelling for my father that day, and I found the 75th Ranger plaque and have a photo. It was fitting that I found it as I was taking a photo of the Airborne wings logo and by chance (or not) the 75th logo was right there above it.

The plaque reads:
"Sua Sponte!"

Eric James Nelson