

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
37TH INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG)
3RD BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96228

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Knaflner

Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Knaflner,

I wish to extend the sincere condolences of myself and the men of this unit on the recent loss of your son, Private First Class John A. Knaflner, who died in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 14 August 1969.

On the evening of 14 August 1969, John and his scout dog KING were leading a patrol in the vicinity of firebase Claudette. John's scout dog gave an alert, the patrol moved on. Again, KING gave a second alert. John notified the patrol leader, and at this time, the patrol leader halted the element. He then assembled one fire team, his radio operator, and John and his scout dog KING. Approximately 15 meters further ahead, fifteen Viet Cong fired on them with automatic weapons. John died of small arms fire.

It may be of some comfort to you to know that John died instantly and was not subject to undue suffering. A memorial service was held on 18 August 1969 at the platoon's base camp at Phu Loi.

I sincerely hope that the knowledge that John died in the service of his country will be of some comfort in your hour of bereavement. It might also comfort you to know that John and his scout dog KING probably saved the lives of all the other members in the patrol. We all admired and respected him and share with you the great loss of a close comrade. Again, I wish to extend the sincere sympathy of the men of this unit as well as my own personal condolences.

Sincerely,

RICHARD D. BRUCE
2LT, INFANTRY
Commanding Officer