

# The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

SPECIAL VETERANS DAY 2013 EDITION

## Purple Heart Awarded to Dan Richards '67

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*Plus...*

Patrick Nagel '88

David Bonior '63

Remembering Our Fallen ND Brothers



# The Leprechaun

SPECIAL VETERANS DAY  
2013 EDITION

*The Leprechaun* is a newsletter devoted solely to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame High School of Harper Woods, Michigan. It is produced and distributed free of charge. For more information, please see the Notre Dame Alumni Association's official website: [www.friendsofnotredame.com](http://www.friendsofnotredame.com).

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Cover Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography

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*Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!*

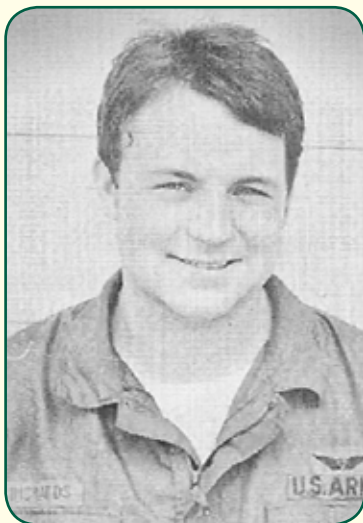
# Purple Heart Awarded to Dan Richards '67

## Pilot of Downed Plane Achieves Life-Long Goal of Getting Purple Heart for a Man He Had Known For Just Three Hours

In April of 2013, a letter arrived at the home of **Jim Mandl '90**. It was from Martha Tallon - the wife of LTC Joseph Tallon, a reconnaissance pilot for the United States Army who served in the Vietnam War. She explained that she and her husband had been lobbying, for years, to award a purple heart to the man who was on the OV-1 Mohawk her husband was piloting when it went down shortly after take-off in Vietnam on August 12, 1972. ND's **Dan Richards '67** was the other man on that ill-fated flight.

The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded to those who have been wounded or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military. The Purple Heart is the oldest military award that is still given to members of the U.S. military, the only earlier award being the obsolete Fidelity Medallion. It is awarded posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

LTC Tallon was an OV-1 Mohawk reconnaissance pilot who flew most of his missions under the cover of darkness. His plane was the only unarmed, unescorted plane flown



**Dan Richards '67 in his United States Army Uniform.**

over North Vietnam. On August, 12, 1972, he and Dan Richards climbed aboard the OV-1 Mohawk to perform a mission that was veiled in secrecy. Just after takeoff into the night skies of Vietnam, the plane took a missile in the

number two engine. Just minutes after they left ground, their mission became one of survival.

The two men were ejected from the plane. "I should have been dead," said Tallon, as he recalled that frightening event. Just after the plane was hit by the missile, he found himself parachuting to the ground. "I hit the ground at 140 mph and blacked out," Tallon said. "I landed in a minefield at night, in a razor fence. I made it through the minefield without triggering any mines and I was on fire. I crawled to the perimeter of the airfield's fence."

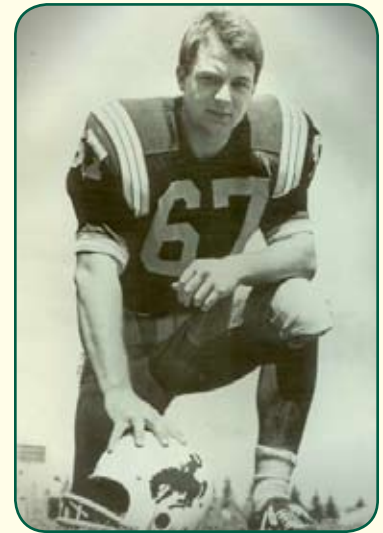
Dodging flames that surrounded him, Tallon couldn't find his knife or pistol. What he did find helped to keep him alive. "What kept me from being impaled was my radio and my New Testament," he said. Tallon has since given the New Testament to both of his sons who have taken it to Korea and Iraq. He was evacuated from Vietnam nine days after the incident. Dan Richards, the plane's aerial observer and tactical operator wasn't so lucky. He was killed when his parachute did not open. His body was recovered a few days after the incident.

The day after the crash, Tallon's commanding officer surveyed the crash scene, but didn't see evidence of bullet holes or a missile strike at the crash site. The plane had melted and only the propeller was left. Since there weren't two witnesses, there wasn't enough proof that the plane was shot down. They concluded Dan lost his life as a result of an accidental crash, not as a result of combat wounds. Since the nature of the mission being flown was secretive and the conflict in Vietnam drew to a close just two weeks after the incident, all records of the incident had been destroyed. The U.S. Army ruled that these men did not qualify for a purple heart.

The crash left Tallon blind for 10 days and left him with double vision which he still has today. He spent two and a half years in six Army hospitals, where he stated he received excellent care.

Being the lone survivor of the incident, LTC Tallon began lobbying the Army to correct the records of the events of that day. After several years of hard work, he was successful in his appeal. On Nov. 12, 2008, Retired U.S.

Army LTC Tallon was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries he received on a combat mission in Vietnam. He was also awarded The Air Medal and The Bronze Campaign Medal with Bronze Star attachment. After a 36-year delay, and



**Dan Richards '67 in his Wyoming Football uniform.**

more than 20 surgeries, Tallon finally received the Purple Heart that eluded him for so long. However, this was not the end of his mission.

LTC Tallon's mission shifted to securing a purple heart for the other soldier on that ill-fated flight - a man he had known for less than three hours - Dan Richards. LTC Tallon enlisted the help of South Carolina Congressman Tim Scott, who is now a Senator. They began lobbying the army in late 2008 and submitted the necessary paperwork. After a few years of careful consideration, the Army agreed to award Dan Richards with a Purple Heart for injuries received on a combat mission in Vietnam.

Having secured approval for a Purple Heart ceremony, a new problem presented itself. The Tallons could not locate any living relatives of Dan Richards to award the Purple Heart. Mrs. Tallon's letter continued as a plea for help from the Notre Dame High School Alumni Association. "We spent years lobbying to have the Purple Heart awarded," she said. "But, even with an agreement from the Army, we still hadn't started our search for Dan's family."

She explained that Senator Tim Scott was holding the Purple Heart until family of Dan Richards' could be reached. Mrs. Tallon was seeking someone in metro Detroit who would be willing to assist her in searching for Dan's family. An information sheet about Dan and his family was included with the letter.

Jim Mandl '90, president of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, immediately responded to the letter to offer assistance with the search. "I was made aware of Dan Richards in 2007 when we began delivering Wall of Fame plaques," said Mandl. "A member of his class informed us that he didn't make it back from Vietnam."

This served as motivation to the Mandls. They, along with Kevin Flaherty '89, researched fallen ND graduates and compiled a list of seven. "We submitted the names and photos of these men to a traveling Vietnam Wall memorial and to another memorial web site," said Mandl. "We wanted to make sure these men would not be forgotten." He concluded his e-mail to Mrs. Tallon by saying: "Dan's Wall of Fame plaque is at my house - it is the only one at my house."

After making contact with the Tallons, the search began on the internet. All members of the class of 1967 were e-mailed and asked if they had any contact with Dan's family. "Unfortunately, no one kept in contact with Dan's family from that class," said Mandl.

Google and whitepages.com searches yielded no fruit either. "I tried Ancestry.com, but that wasn't very helpful since Dan had been gone so long," said Mandl. Phone calls to military installations were even less successful.

A trip to Mt. Olivet Cemetery where Dan Richards is buried was next. "I met with someone in the office at the cemetery, but they were less than

helpful," Mandl said. "The person I spoke to said they didn't keep records like that, so I was getting a bit discouraged." Something told Mandl not to give up on the cemetery. "I got about halfway home and decided to call the cemetery office," he said. "My thought was that I needed to talk to someone else." This proved to be the right move. Mandl asked

to speak to the manager of the cemetery. Ironically, she explained that she had just spoken to Mrs. Tallon on the phone and was in the process of pulling the records on Dan Richards.

A week later, a second letter arrived. The Tallons, with the help of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, had located Dan's cousins, Paul and Fran Herdzik, in Alabama. The letter indicated the cousins would attend a ceremony at a yet to be determined date and location sometime in the fall. "We really had to let it sink in for a while," said Paul Herdzik when asked about his reaction when he was contacted by the cemetery and the Tallons. "After all these years... it was very emotional."

It wasn't until late September that Mandl heard from the Tallons again. This time, an official invitation to Dan Richards' Purple Heart award ceremony arrived in the mail. "Mrs. Tallon asked if I would come to South Carolina to talk about Notre Dame," said Mandl. "I was honored and wasn't going to let anything keep me from helping to honor Dan." On November 1, 2013, Jim Mandl '90 flew to Charleston, South Carolina to deliver a brief speech about Notre Dame High School and to honor Dan Richards '67.

The ceremony, which took place the morning of Saturday, November 2nd, began at 11:00am with an invocation by Larry Hargett, a member of the Dorchester County Council.

It was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by CPT Joshua A. Tallon, son of LTC Joe Tallon and a video version of the national anthem prepared by COL Jim Shumard, U.S. Air Force Retired.

Matthew A. Tallon, son of LTC Joe Tallon and Master of Ceremonies welcomed the 40 plus in attendance. He

introduced and welcomed the special guests. He then introduced the first presenter of the ceremony, Jim Mandl '90 from the Notre

Dame High School Alumni Association.

Jim gave a three minute presentation on the history of Notre Dame High School and its Wall of Fame. The Speech was themed 'Gone, But Not Forgotten.' The speech started with a brief description of the school and a list of notable alumni, including David Bonior '63, Matt Servitto '83, Dave Coulier '77 and Doug Weight '89. "One of our graduates has somewhat local ties," said Mandl. "He led the Carolina Hurricanes to a Stanley Cup championship in 2005-2006 - Center, Doug Weight."

Mandl then turned the focus on the man being honored that day. "However, today, the most important graduate of Notre Dame High School is the man we are here to honor - Dan Richards, class of 1967," he said.



**Matthew A. Tallon, son of LTC Joseph L. Tallon.**  
Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography

Mandl explained the Wall of Fame and how he came into possession of the Wall of Fame plaque of Dan Richards. "When the school closed, the Wall of Fame was left behind," said Mandl. He went on to explain that he and his father, Jim Mandl '66 went back to the school on several occasions to rescue its history and that the Wall of Fame plaques were the first items they rescued. "We started distributing the Wall of Fame plaques to the respective alumni," said Mandl. At the time, they could not find anyone to give Dan's Wall of Fame Plaque to. "This is why Dan's plaque was kept at my house," said Mandl.

Mandl explained that being a graduate of Notre Dame High School is like being a part of a brotherhood. "Being a part of the Notre Dame family is special," said Mandl. "Dan Richards may be gone, but like Notre Dame High School, he will never be forgotten by his Notre Dame family."

It was now time to present Dan's Wall of Fame plaque to his family. "Over 40 years has passed since Dan made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country," Mandl said. "It is a great honor for me to present the Wall of Fame plaque of my fellow Notre Dame brother to his cousins - Paul and Fran Herdzik," Mandl proclaimed as the Herdziks made their way to the podium. He handed the Wall of Fame plaque to Fran and a Notre Dame varsity letter to Paul.



**The Invitation to Dan Richards' '67 Purple Heart Ceremony.**



**CPT Joshua A. Tallon, son of LTC Joseph L. Tallon.**  
Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography



**Jim Mandl '90 Presents Fran and Paul Herdzik with Dan Richards' Wall of Fame Plaque and a Notre Dame Varsity Letter.**

*Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography*

Following Mandl's presentation, Matthew Tallon returned to the podium to discuss the history of the Purple Heart. When he was finished, LTC Joe Tallon was invited by his son to approach the podium to give his account of the events of August 12, 1972.

"I'm going to try to get through this," LTC Tallon said as he pulled two sheets of paper from his pocket. "Those of you who know me, know I'm a man of few words," he said with a hint of sarcasm. "My wife has limited me to two pages today." LTC Tallon spoke for approximately three minutes, choking back tears on several occasions. (Please see page 5 for a complete transcript of LTC Tallon's account.)

LTC Tallon turned the floor over to his son, Matthew, once again. The moment that was 41 years in the making was finally going to take place. He invited Brian Goff and A.D. Jordan, members of Tim Scott's Senate office, to the podium where they expressed their regrets that the Senator could not attend the ceremony in person. It was Senator Scott who got the process of securing a Purple Heart rolling for the Tallons.

"We were thrilled to hear that we were going to be a part of this when we were told," said A.D. Jordan. He then proceeded to detail another special honor that would be bestowed upon Dan Richards. "I would like to present the family with this certificate," he said. "It represents that a United States flag will be flown over the United States Capital on Veteran's Day in honor of Daniel M. Richards."

"I would like to read the certificate to you, if I may," he continued. "This is to certify that a request was made and a flag was flown over the United States Capital in honor of Dan-

iel M. Richards who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. It is signed United States Senator, Tim Scott, South Carolina."

Matthew Tallon then returned to the podium and asked all in attendance to stand. "Attention to orders," he read from the Purple Heart certificate. "This is to certify that the President of the United States of America has awarded the Purple Heart, established by George Washington, Newburgh, New York, 1782, to Specialist 5th Class, Daniel M. Richards, United States Army, for wounds received in action in the Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam - 12 August, 1972. Signed on the 8th day of May, 2012 by John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army." A silence fell over the room as A.D. Jordan and Brian Goff handed the certificate and the Purple Heart to the Herdziks.



**The Purple Heart Presented to the Family of Dan Richards '67.**

*Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography*

CPT Joshua A. Tallon then returned to the podium to read a poem titled 'Freedom is not free.' It was written by Kelly Strong. He wrote it as a high school senior (JROTC cadet) at Homestead High, Homestead, Florida in 1981. It is a tribute to his father, a career marine who served two tours in Vietnam. Please see page 6 for a transcript of the poem.

The ceremony continued with a three minute video tribute to Dan Richards. It included photos that LTC Joe Tallon brought back from Vietnam. The video was prepared by COL Jim Shumard. As the video faded to black, those in attendance began drying their eyes. "That plane... number 23, that you saw in the video on the runway... that was the actual plane that we were in," said LTC Joe Tallon as Kisa Mayo concluded the ceremony by playing taps.

Following the ceremony, all guests shared a meal together at Oscar's Restaurant in Summerville, South Carolina, compliments of the Tallon family. During the gathering, the Herdziks shared some memories of Dan Richards. "I was only 13 when Dan was killed," said Paul Herdzik. "I remember being at the funeral and not understanding why we were there. No one would ever talk

about it. Danny was just gone."

Dan Richards was a standout football player at Notre Dame. He received a full ride to play football at the University of Wyoming. Although he was recruited by local schools, he chose to head west because of its beauty. "He loved it out there, but didn't stay after his first year," said Fran Herdzik. "He came home and was planning to enroll at a school in Michigan, but he ended up getting drafted into the Army."

"When he was on R and R from the Army, he got married in Hawaii," said Fran. "He was only married six months when we got word he was killed. We kept in contact with his wife for a while and she eventually remarried."

Dan Richards came from a small family, so his cousins were very important to him. "Danny was like a big brother to me," said Paul Herdzik. "One thing I remember about him is that he always bought the best gifts." Because he was an only child, Dan always bought his cousins the latest and greatest gadgets as gifts. "And he always remembered to buy us batteries, too," added Fran Herdzik. "That was rare at that time."

Dan Richards had many hobbies, but his one true love was cars. "He loved cars," said Paul. "He would always offer to wash the neighbors' cars in exchange for being able to drive them."

"He had a 1968 Corvette that he really loved," said Paul. "I remember seeing that car in the driveway for about a year after Danny's death. That was tough... a constant reminder."

The Herdziks were happy that LTC Tallon and his family never forgot Dan Richards. "I think we finally have closure," said Fran. "No one ever knew what really happened to Danny over there. We never thought we would know. But now we do and I can't thank the Tallons enough." ❄️



**The Tallon Family: LTC Joseph F. Tallon, Matthew Tallon, CPT Joshua A. Tallon, and Martha Tallon.**

*Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography*

# LTC Joseph L. Tallon's Fist-hand Account of What Happened on August 12, 1972

"As the aircraft commander of OV-1 Mohawk, it is my job to give an after mission report when we return to base. On this mission, we never returned to base. This is an account of what happened 41 years ago on 12 August, 1972.

Less than three hours before our mission, I met Daniel Richards for the first time. As a tactical observer, he was to operate the side looking airborne radar during our mission. During most of our missions, we departed in the middle of the night. We gathered intelligence about enemy occupied territories, we were shot at by missiles, but we were unarmed and un-escorted.

We departed at about one o'clock in the morning on August the 12th, 1972. I gave the plane full power and we began to go down the runway. One last cross-check indicated all the gauges were in the green and we accelerated. We approached 100 knots and lifted off. You could see the outline of the Marble Mountains in the distance. It was a dark night.

We climbed to between 200 and 300 feet. At that point, I heard an explosion and felt the impact of an enemy missile on the right side of the aircraft. Daniel was sitting just 18 inches to my right. He said to me: "Sir, we've been hit in the number two engine." Those were his last words.

I leaned forward and looked right past him and saw the number two engine with blue and orange flames coming out. This caused my hair to stand on end. At that moment, my training kicked in and I began to shut that engine down. I feathered the propeller, informed the tower that we had been hit and we were on fire and needed the runway clear. The tower replied that the runway was still clear and asked if we needed further assistance. I never answered. I got too busy.

Next, I finally shut down the fuel and hydraulics going to that burning engine. I quickly pulled the two cockpit fire handles. This caused two 500 pound extinguishers to be launched into cowlings of the engine, but it did not stop the flames. The fire retardant chemicals are most effective when the engine cowling is still intact. With it gone, the chemicals just sprayed out into the night air.

The plane began to bank hard right and tried to roll over and go inverted into a death roll, which no one can recover from. I put full left on with both hands on the control stick. I put my left leg against the fire wall with full left rudder to cross-control the engines and give us a chance to eject. I looked back over my right shoulder and could see the lights of the runway. I knew there was no way that we could make it back to that runway. I put my hand on the handle to jettison the wing tanks, but I realized that if I did, the tanks would fall on us because the wing was above us at this point. We would actually be fire-bombing ourselves. I released that handle and did not jettison the wing tanks. That extra fuel acted like an anchor holding us back and down.

I gave the order: 'LET'S GO! EJECT!' We didn't have time to shed the canopy. That's why we had penetrator built into our seats. I heard Dan's seat explode. I reached for the ejection handle between my legs and pulled it. I was knocked unconscious.

Less than ten seconds elapsed from the time the engine exploded to the moment I pulled the ejection handle. Even though Daniel and I had met just three hours earlier, we became blood brothers that night because we shed our blood on the same ground."

-- LTC Joseph F. Tallon November 2, 2013

*"Sir, we've been hit in the number two engine."*



**LTC Joseph L. Tallon giving a first-hand account of the events of August, 12, 1972.**  
Photo by Dawn Hurayt Photography

LTC Tallon continued to serve in active duty and in the reserves for 37 years, spanning five decades. He taught history for 21 years for the state of South Carolina in public schools and for 12 years for the Army. In reflecting back on his storied military career, Tallon said, "I feel it is the duty of every citizen to serve their country; especially when called."

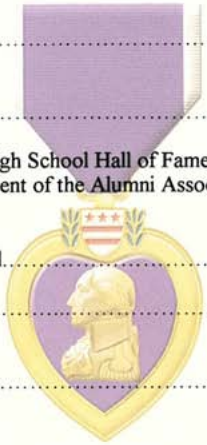


**The exact OV-1 Mohawk Dan Richards '67 and LTC Tallon were on when it was struck by a missile on August, 12, 1972.**



**Spec 5 Daniel M. Richards**  
**Purple Heart Ceremony**  
**November 2, 2013**

Invocation.....	Larry Hargett Member, Dorchester County Council
Pledge of Allegiance.....	CPT Joshua A. Tallon HHD Commander of 1182 <sup>nd</sup> DDSB, U.S. Army Reserves
National Anthem.....	Video prepared by COL Jim Shumard U.S. Air Force Retired
Welcome.....	Matthew A. Tallon Master of Ceremonies
Introduction of Special Guests.....	Matthew A. Tallon
Induction into the Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame.....	Jim Mandl President of the Alumni Association, Notre Dame High School Harper Woods, Michigan
History of the Purple Heart Medal.....	Matthew A. Tallon
The Last Mission.....	LTC Joseph F. Tallon U.S. Army Retired
Presentation of the Purple Heart.....	Honorable Tim Scott U.S. Senator, South Carolina
Remarks.....	Senator Tim Scott
"Freedom Is Not Free".....	Written by Kelly Strong, 1981 Read by CPT Joshua A. Tallon
Tribute to Daniel M. Richards.....	Video prepared by COL Jim Shumard
Closing Remarks.....	Matthew A. Tallon
Taps.....	Played by Kisa Mayo



**Freedom Is Not Free**  
**by Kelly Strong**

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
It fluttered in the breeze;  
A young Marine saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,  
So young, so tall, so proud;  
With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought... how many men like  
him  
Had fallen through the years?  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down  
How many died at sea  
How many foxholes were soldiers'  
graves  
No, Freedom is not Free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
When everything was still;  
I listened to the bugler play,  
And felt a sudden chill;

I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant "Amen"  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend;

I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea,  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.  
No. Freedom is not Free!

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# Dan Richards '67 Photo Gallery

**DANIEL MARTIN RICHARDS**  
**Army - SP5 - E5**

Age: 23  
 Race: Caucasian  
 Sex: Male  
 Date of Birth: Jun 21, 1949  
 From: DETROIT, MI  
 Religion: ROMAN CATHOLIC  
 Marital Status: Married

**DANIEL MARTIN RICHARDS**

SP5 - E5 - Army - Regular

His tour began on Sep 28, 1971  
 Casualty was on Aug 12, 1972  
 In QUANG NAM, SOUTH VIETNAM  
 NON-HOSTILE, FIXED WING - NONCREW  
 AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND

Panel 01W - Line 64



THOMAS W REASOR JOSEP L RUZICKA Jr FREDDIE L SLAUGHTER Jr LUIS ALONZO ROBERT M LANKFORD  
 DAVID N LARSON CLYDE K NELSON JAMES J SANSONE WILLIAM G CHANDLER PATRICK T MATHEWS  
 PATRICK A DECK Jr HERBERT D STARK EDWARD J BRUE MARSHALL B COLLINS JAMES W FULK TERRY KOHLER  
 MERRILL H MASIN RAYMOND R REESE **DANIEL M RICHARDS** CHARLES P ROBERTS WILLIAM G SAARELA  
 BEN O SHEPPARD Jr PHILIP H STEVENS RAY E TANNEHILL JERRY D VANCE TIMMIE J WARD  
 DAVID M THOMPSON FRANCIS W TOWNSEND JOSEPH E FRASHER RONNIE HOLLY ALLAN W HOLMES  
 LAWRENCE C DEAN ORLAND J PENDER Jr JOHN R PITZEN GRADY T TRIPLETT CATALINO B ANTONIO Jr  
 ROGER E BEHNFELDT RODERICK B LESTER HARRY S MOSSMAN WILLIAM J CROCKETT LEE M TIGNER  
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 DONALD J HANNING DONALD F LINDLAND RONALD F BOEING DONALD A GERSTEL ALAN P AHLFIELD  
 STEPHEN O MUSSELMAN ROBERT L HARLEY JOHN L SMITH MICHAEL P RICE GEORGE E GILLILAND  
 CARROLL T JACKSON MELVIN L STEVENSON KENNETH R BUELL VERNE G DONNELLY THOMAS A GOETSCH  
 MICHAEL S TUROSE THOMAS O ZORN Jr ROGER W CARROLL Jr DWIGHT W COOK TIMOTHY J SWEENEY  
 DANIEL V BORAH Jr PETER CHAN VINCENT C ANDERSON RICHARD B LINEBERRY ROBERT A BRETT Jr  
 WILLIAM C COLTMAN SCOTT L BIRKET HERMAN C ACKER JACK S BERGMAN Jr WILLIAM CLARK Jr  
 CHARLES W CLINARD RONALD P DALEY RAYMOND R DAVIS TERRY W DEAL WILLIAM H HARRISON III  
 TOMMY M HAWKER ROBERT M KICKERT ROBERT T MOORE EDWARD R McELENENY Jr STANLEY G PILOT Jr  
 LANNY A YORK RALPH L ROBINSON WESLEY H ROSE RICKY L RUCKER JEFFREY L SCHELLER DAVID L SCOTT



# Other Medals Earned by Dan Richards '67



# We Remember Our Other Fallen Brothers



*Vincent F. Murphy '63*  
(Army)  
8/16/1945 ~ 9/18/1966



*Joseph C. Wiar '66*  
(Marines)  
6/17/1947 ~ 1/7/1968



*John Pizzuti '67*  
(Army)  
2/1/1949 ~ 12/11/1968



*Brian E. McCarthy '67*  
(Army)  
12/26/1948 ~ 5/10/1970



*Paul D. Mannerow '67*  
(Marines)  
8/10/1949 ~ 5/10/1969



*Kenneth S. Gniewek '65*  
(Marines)  
10/11/1949 ~ 9/5/1970

## Nagel '88 Remembered as a True Team Player

*Patrick Nagel '88* was the consummate team player at the Birmingham Fire Department. He was the guy everyone could depend on. "Pat was one of those people who everyone loved," Fire Chief Mike Metz said. "He was always positive, he just loved life. He would always say, 'I'm living the dream,' and he sincerely meant it."

Nagel, 43, passed away suddenly on Monday, Sept. 2, at his home in Clinton Township. He leaves behind his wife Deann and their two children, Nicholas, 16, and Ashley, 14.

He was a member of the I.A.F.F. Local 911 and served as a Paramedic/Fire Fighter with Birmingham for the past 16 years. He ran a small lawn service on the side, but for the most part, his free time was spent with his family.



**Patrick Nagel '88 with his family.**

"His family always came first," Metz said. "He loved doing things with his wife and kids."

"He taught me the ropes," said Firefighter Paul Wells, who joined the Birmingham department a year after Nagel was hired. "For 16 years he was always there when you needed help. Everyone wanted to work with him. When you were on the truck with Pat, you knew he had everything covered if something was ever missed. He was on everyone's A-team list."

Wells also remembered his colleague for his sense of humor and laid-back personality. "Pat was our high-blood pressure medication," he said. "You could come in upset about the world and a half hour later you would be laughing. He was always in a good mood."

"My brother loved his job," said Lynn Studholme, Pat's sister. "The rookies really loved him because he did everything by the book and always worked with them to help them grow," she added. "He never treated them like they were low on the totem pole."

A memorial fund has been established by the department for Nagel's wife and children. "He was a great husband, son, brother, firefighter and friend, but most of all he was a great father," said Studholme. "My Nephew has eye problems and has special glasses and needs a computer in each class to make the board bigger because his eyes are very sensitive to light. Pat worked so hard with him and Nicholas was getting A's finally!"

Donations to the Patrick C. Nagel Memorial Fund can be sent to any Chase Bank, or to the Birmingham Fire Department, 572 S. Adams, Birmingham MI 48009.

Along with his wife and children, Nagel is survived by his parents, Christian and Barbara Nagel; sister Lynn (Thomas) Studholme; father-in-law James (Jackie) Przywara; brother-in-law James Przywara Jr. He is also remembered by many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and his loyal companions, his dogs, Bella and Chloe. 🐾



**A Birmingham fire engine outside the funeral home in honor of Patrick Nagel '88.**

FROM THE FLOIDA TIMES UNION

## Bonior '63 Delivers Keynote Address to Veterans



**David Bonior '63**

Notre Dame's *David Bonior '63* delivered the keynote address at the 16th National Convention of The Vietnam Veterans of America, which took place in Jacksonville, Fla., August 13-17.

Over 800 delegates and guests from across the country attended the opening ceremonies as former U.S. Congressman Bonior spoke. Bonior served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Bonior published a book in 1985 called, "The Vietnam Veteran: A History of Neglect." He is also the man responsible for giving the Vietnam Veterans of America organization its founding principal: "Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another." 🌟

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