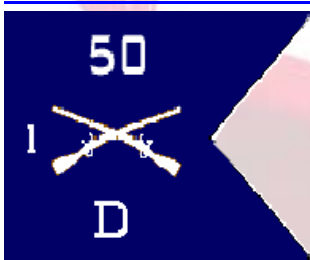




4TH INFANTRY  
DIVISION



1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY



"D" COMPANY



PRIVATE  
1ST CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

## LAWRENCE J. LEDONNE

3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, "D" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Private First Class, E3, US51979559, MOS 11D10

Home of Record: Ridgefield Park, NJ

Date of Birth: October 21, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: January 19, 1968, Date of Casualty: March 18, 1968, Days in Country: 59

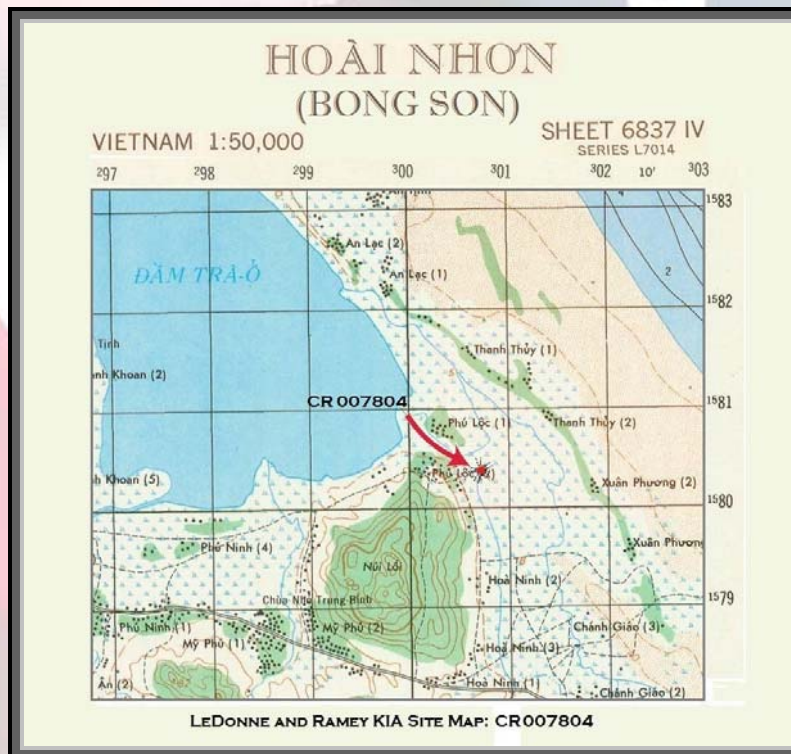
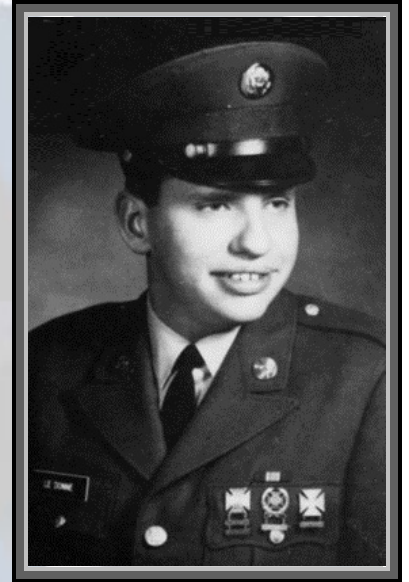
Casualty Type A1, Hostile, MFW, Panel 45E - Row 027

Larry LeDonne was killed instantly when, at 5:30 PM on the afternoon on March 18th, 1968, the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) he was driving hit a large mine and was completely destroyed. Also killed was Tom Ramey (50 Cal. Machine Gunner). 5 other men were wounded.

Larry was initially reported "Missing" and we believe this was since it was difficult to identify his remains.

LeDonne was a likeable and popular member of "D" Company...even though he had only been with the unit for about 2 months. Russ Roth, from Larry's former platoon remembered:

*"We had been ambushed the day before and things were still tense. We made the mistake of returning the way we had come...through an area that was prone to Land Mines. Larry's APC was blown completely off the ground. Parker Pierce told me he was the one who identified the body later back at LZ Uplift."*



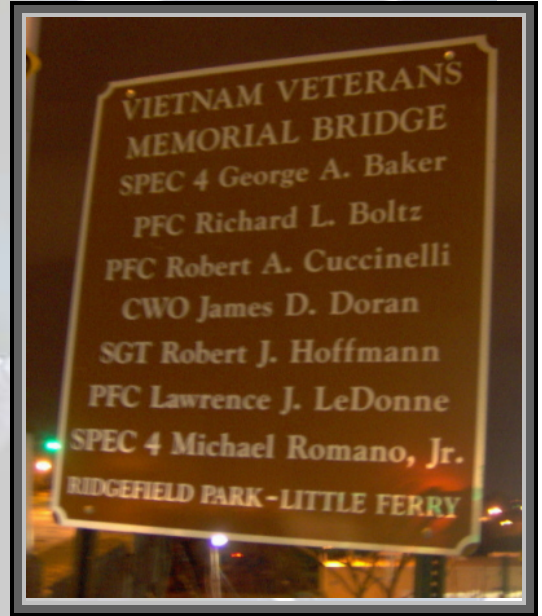
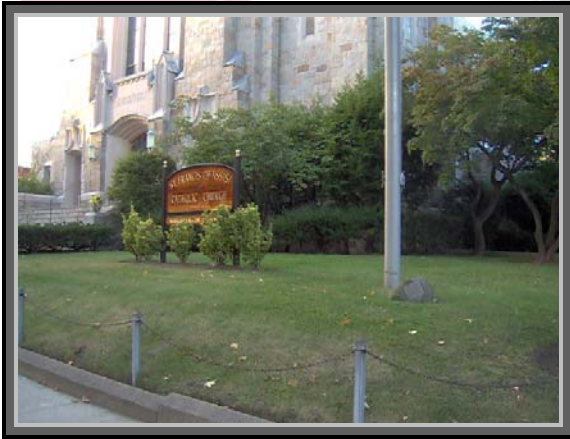
The map to the left shows the coordinates of where LeDonne and Ramey were killed. The area around the hill to the Southwest of the site was the scene of several severe land mine incidents during our tour. The enemy knew we were limited with where we could traverse between our Base Camp to the West and the Beach Area along the South China Sea to the East. Mountains impassable by our APCs were located just South of the highway visible in

the lower portion of the map...which only gave us two viable paths to travel.

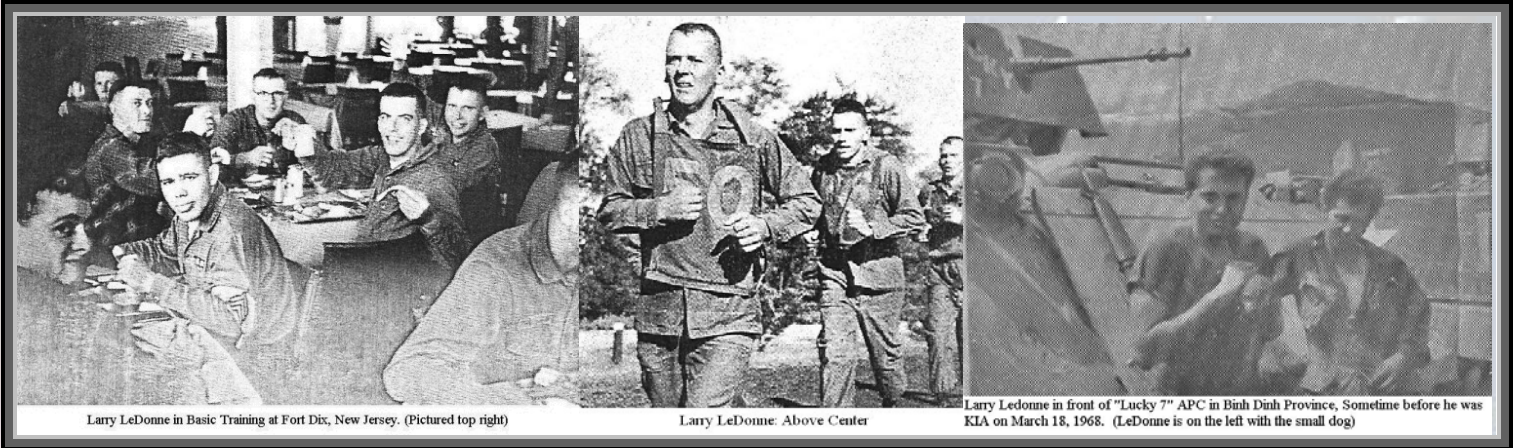


The Association of the 50th Infantry is grateful to Larry's Sister, Barbara LeDonne Brunton, of Ridgefield NJ, for supplying us with the photos used for this memorial.

Larry was honored in his hometown when a bridge spanning the Hackensack River on nearby Route 46 was named in honor of the men from Ridgefield Park and Little Ferry killed in Vietnam. The bridge connects the two suburban towns (Photo to the right). A Flagpole was dedicated to Larry on the front lawn of St. Francis Roman Catholic Church in Ridgefield Park (Photos on the left and below).



Below...Larry is pictured in Training before his Vietnam service. He is "top right" in the photo on the left and is the man in the middle in the center photo. LeDonne is pictured on the left (Photo below right) in front of the "Lucky 7" APC in Binh Dinh Province sometime before his death when our unit had been attached to the 1st Cavalry Division.



Larry LeDonne in Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. (Pictured top right)

Larry LeDonne: Above Center

Larry LeDonne in front of "Lucky 7" APC in Binh Dinh Province, Sometime before he was KIA on March 18, 1968. (LeDonne is on the left with the small dog)

Lawrence J LeDonne is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey, pictured below:



Continued...

## LARRY LEDONNE'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HEADQUARTERS 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 2349

18 APRIL 1968

For distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 23 January 1968 to 18 March 1968. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever-changing situations inherent in the counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of this extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service.



Bronze  
Star



Purple  
Heart



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign