



**173<sup>RD</sup> AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE**

## **FRANCIS EUGENE SANDERS**

**"D" Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry  
Private, E2, Posthumous Promotion to PFC, RA16872130, MOS 11B1P  
Home of Record: Augusta, MI**

**Date of Birth: June 12, 1948, Age at time of loss: 19, Single  
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: October 3, 1967, Date of Casualty: December 25, 1967, Days in Country: 83  
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 32E**

We have determined that Francis Sanders was not a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (M), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry during our tour in Vietnam.



**"THE ROCK"**



Initially, he was listed as a casualty within our battalion but subsequent document gathering proved otherwise. Although his name is inscribed in error on our 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Vietnam Memorial in front of Battalion Headquarters, Fort Benning, Georgia. His name will remain on our memorial.

Private First Class Sanders was KIA on December 25th, 1967, while under a 48 hour cease fire. His platoon was being over run by VC. He laid down accurate fire and was able to hold off the major attack and alert his platoon in time. He laid his life down on Christmas Day for his fellow comrades.

On June 12th, 2002, American Legion Post 84 of Otsego, Michigan, took the name of Francis E. Sanders for it's post name.

Francis Sanders is buried at Mountain Home Cemetery, N. Farmer Street, Otsego, Allegan County, Michigan, pictured below:



**"D" COMPANY**



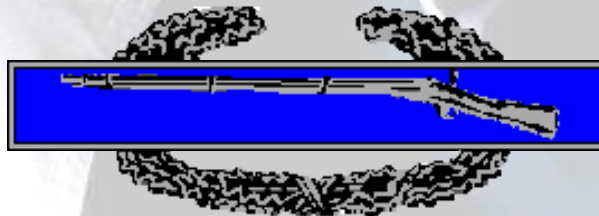
**PRIVATE  
1ST CLASS**



**INFANTRYMAN**

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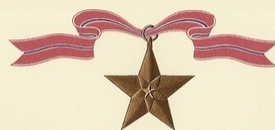
# AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF FRANCIS SANDERS



Combat Infantry Badge



Airborne Jump Wings (Basic Parachutist Badge)



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 3 OCTOBER 1967 TO 25 DECEMBER 1967. 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