



**COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE**



Mitchel Collins, 73, Claypool, IN, was born November 22, 1942 to Sam and Cloria (Conley) Collins. He passed away at the Select Specialty Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana on December 31, 2015 at 4:50 p.m.. Mitchel graduated from Sidney High School in 1961. He then joined the Army and served in the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of Sergeant and was the Squad Leader for the 4th Squad, 1st Platoon of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry which served under the 1st Cavalry Division, The 4th Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism (V Device for Valor), The Air Medal and Vietnam Campaign & Service Medals.

After the Army he worked for Whitley Products, Pierceton, IN as a Tool & Die Maker and retired after 27 years. He was an avid wood carver. Mitchel married Evelyn F. Taylor on October 5, 1963. He is survived by his wife Evelyn; two sons David Collins, Warsaw, IN and Matthew Collins, Warsaw, IN; one brother Estel (Donna) Collins, Pittsboro, IN; two sisters Leana (John) Heinlein, Plymouth, IN and Lessie (Merl) Montel, Pierceton, IN; and two grandchildren. Mitchel is preceded in death by his parents Sam and Cloria (Conley) Collins, and his brother Wetzel Collins. There will be no calling or services for Mitchel Collins. To send a private condolence to the Collins family, use the condolence link on the McKee Mortuary homepage.



**HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)**

**GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 5400**

**20 JUNE, 1968**

**FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR COLLINS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 10 DECEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A RIFLEMAN WITH COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION NEAR BONG SON, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE, SPECIALIST COLLINS VOLUNTEERED TO ADMINISTER FIRST AID ON THE MEDICAL ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER. AFTER TREATING ALL THE WOUNDED, SPECIALIST COLLINS EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE MOVED TO A FORWARD FIGHTING POSITION TO HELP EVACUATE THE WOUNDED PERSONNEL. WITHOUT REGARD TO HIS OWN SAFETY, SPECIALIST COLLINS CONTINUED THIS MISSION UNTIL ALL THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS WERE EVACUATED. HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY IS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.**

**BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11046, 24 AUGUST 1962.**