

George Maurice O'Donnell, T-65

25 July 1947 – 16 June 1967

(aged 19)



The 19-year-old Memphian was killed by enemy fire south of Da Nang Friday in a battle fought by Marines and Army troops to clear supply routes along the coast of Vietnam. Private O'Donnell was the 72nd Memphis and Shelby County soldier to die in Vietnam.

Private O'Donnell attended Memphis Technical High School but left in the 11th grade to take a job with an encyclopedia firm. "He was a good salesman" said his mother, "I have several trophies he won for outstanding salesmanship."

Private O'Donnell joined the Army in February 1966. He had been in Vietnam only one month before Friday's battle.

Mrs. O'Donnell said she received a letter from him after he had been in Vietnam two weeks. "He said he had already been in three battles and he hoped his brother would never have to go there." Private O'Donnell's brother, Michael, is 17 and still faces his military obligation. He said it was awful the way our men have to kill, said Mrs. O'Donnell, "but you have to get used to it. He was very proud of being a Screaming Eagle in the 101st Airborne Division."

He had learned to play the accordion and organ while in high school. “He had planned to make a career of his music,” his mother said.

He also leaves his wife, Mrs. Jackie O’Donnell, and a two-year-old son, Stephen, both of 1922 Madison; a brother, Michael O’Donnell of Memphis and a grandmother of Oakboro NC.

