

U.S. Army PFC Gary Paul Meyer *Died September 27, 1966*



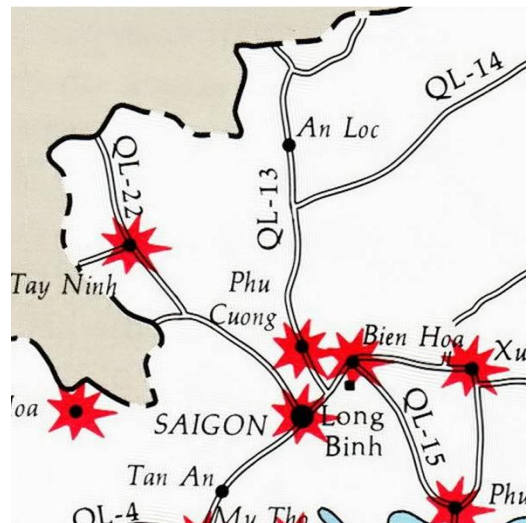
Gary Meyer was a Valley native, born December 2, 1946 in Livermore. He was raised in Pleasanton. He went to Pleasanton Elementary School and Graduated from Amador Valley Joint Union High School in 1964. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 901, played little league, and played drums for the Amador Valley High School band.



Gary joined the Army in August 1964. He served 16 months in Germany before starting his tour in Vietnam on June 25, 1966. He was in A Company, 1st Supply & Transportation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, better known as the "Big Red One". His base camp was near Saigon and Gary served in the transportation unit running supply convoys between his base camp and various Fire Support Bases (FSB) located along highway QL-13. The name "Thunder Road" was given to highway QL-13, which ran about 40 miles north of Saigon to



Cambodia. Gary's parents recalled they would get two to three letters a week from Gary. He would mention the rough time they were having and would refer to a stretch of convoy duty outside Saigon as "Thunder Road". The road was unpaved, in many areas, made of rocky red soil lined with thick vegetation and trees. It had many hiding places for the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong to conduct effective ambushes .



On September 27, 1966 a few miles north of Saigon on a stretch of QL-13 Gary Meyer's convoy was ambushed by Viet Cong machine gunners spraying the convoy. When the attack was over Gary, at the age of 19, died of gunshot wounds. Gary



became the first casualty of the Vietnam War from Pleasanton. He was brought home and buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno.

In 1969 the City of Pleasanton, American Legion Post 237, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 dedicated a memorial to Gary Paul Meyer. This memorial can be located at Kottinger Park on a grassy knoll at the corner of Kottinger Road and Bernal.

