



**Michael James Rambur (1946 – 1968)**

Trevor S. Angood

Michael James Rambur, the first child of LCDR William Rambur USN (Ret) and his wife Betty, was born on August 25, 1946. Bill Rambur had just returned from a valiant war effort in World War II after he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940. Bill was a part of the Invasion on Guadalcanal in the South Pacific. After flying over Formosa he became an honorary member of the Chinese Nationalist Air Force. Later he was shot down over the Pacific at about midnight and started swimming until a passing destroyer picked him up around noon the next day. He retired as Lieutenant Commander in 1960. Achievements received during his valiant war effort included the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 5 stars, the Presidential Citation Unit and Area in Defense medals. After receiving his teaching credentials, he was a History teacher for fifteen years at Castle Park High School. Betty Rambur spent her life as a secretary for the Sweetwater Union High School District.

Including his mom and his dad, Michael Rambur had two sisters, Kay and Joan, and one brother, Steven. Being the oldest, he was the one that took care of and looked out for other people. When he was young, he used to right up lines around his parent's house and scare neighborhood kids with ghosts floating around and spooky music playing. Being a very athletic person, Michael used to do pushups during every commercial. This would later prove beneficial when Rambur became a member of the Hilltop High School Wrestling team; later graduating with the rest of his classmates, Class of 1965. He then went to Southwestern College and sang in the men's chorus. Seeing that his draft number was coming up, he decided to join the Navy as a Hospital Corpsmen. He was trained before leaving for Vietnam at Thirty-Second Street Naval Base, and at Camp Pendleton in San Diego.

Just before his second year of duty, Michael left for his tour of duty with Company H, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division based in Quang Nam, Vietnam. His last letters back to home included saying that was anxious to come home and become a doctor. He also spoke of a new Hospital Corpsmen who had just joined his company and Michael wanted to stay to teach him the ropes and get used to Vietnam.

On November 24, 1968, Michael and his company were out helping wounded men who had been injured in arms fire. Michael was seriously wounded in the shoulder. He refused medical treatment and continued his determined efforts as he crawled from one casualty to another and instructed Marines in caring for the injured men. One of those injured was Michael's commanding officer; the wounds would prove fatal for him. He observed an adjoining platoon had sustained many casualties. Disregarding the heavy enemy sniper fire, he crawled to their aid when he was mortally wounded by sniper fire.

For his valiant effort, Michael James Rambur was awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star, the Republic of

Vietnam Campaign Ribbon Bar, and the Purple Heart Certificate. Michael was also nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor however, to receive the medal; a recommendation had to be sent by Michael's commanding officer. In remembrance of Michael, the Thirty Second Street Naval Base, authorized by Congress in the Military Construction Program, named a Bachelor's Quarters after Michael Rambur in 1969. Rambur Hall was dedicated on March 4, 1971. A street in the Sunbow community of Chula Vista is also named in his honor.

Hospital Corpsman (HN) Michael Rambur is buried at the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, CA. His grave is located at Plot: O 1059-C. He was buried on December 5, 1968. His name also appears on the San Diego Peace Memorial in Balboa Park. His name was also added to the Stardust Spacecraft in a NASA microchip as an outreach program. Further information can be found at:

<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/overview/microchip/faq.html>

His name appears on the "Vietnam Wall Memorial" in Washington DC and is on panel 38W Line 52.

