



Jere Lee Whitaker (1950 – 1968)

Jere Whitaker was born on January 4, 1950 in Chula Vista, CA. He graduated from Hilltop Junior High School, and attended Castle Park High School in Chula Vista. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Whitaker of 1067 Jacqueline Way, Chula Vista. He was a junior at Castle Park High School last year when a motorcycle accident hospitalized him for several weeks. As he had dropped behind in his studies, he decided to join the Army and finish his high school requirements in the service.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of CPL (E4). He died on July 6, 1968 at Hua Nghia, South Vietnam as a result of a grenade exploding during a clean up operation by the Army Engineers. He was 18 years old and not married. He had been in the Army for a year. His body was recovered. CPL Whitaker was serving with the 557th Engineer Company, and had been in the service for a year.

CPL Whitaker is buried at the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego CA and his grave is located at Plot: P 655. Services were held at the Hubbard Mortuary. He was buried on July 20, 1968. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Taylor of Chula Vista and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Whitaker. He also has a half-brother serving in the Maroon Berets in Guam, a step-brother, Les Stark, and two step-sisters, Lyn and Jeanne Stark.

His name appears on the WALL in Washington D.C and is located at Panel 53 West, Row 30. In addition, his name is listed on the memorial plaques at the Veterans Peace Memorial in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA, and a street in the Sunbow community is named in his honor. 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>

