



Thomas Franklin Young

SGT, USMC

Prisoner of War, Hue, 5 Feb 1968

Home of Record (Official):

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Date of Birth: June 18, 1946

Sex: Male

Race: Caucasian

Marital Status: Married

Military -- Branch: Marine Corps

Rank: SGT

Component: Regular

Pay grade: E5

MOS: (Military Occupational Specialty Code): 4312

Major Organization: MACV-OI American Forces Vietnam Network

Action -- Start of Tour: 1967

Date of Casualty February 3 (5), 1968

Age at time of loss: 21

Casualty type: (A1) Hostile, died

Reason: Gun, small arms fire (Ground casualty)

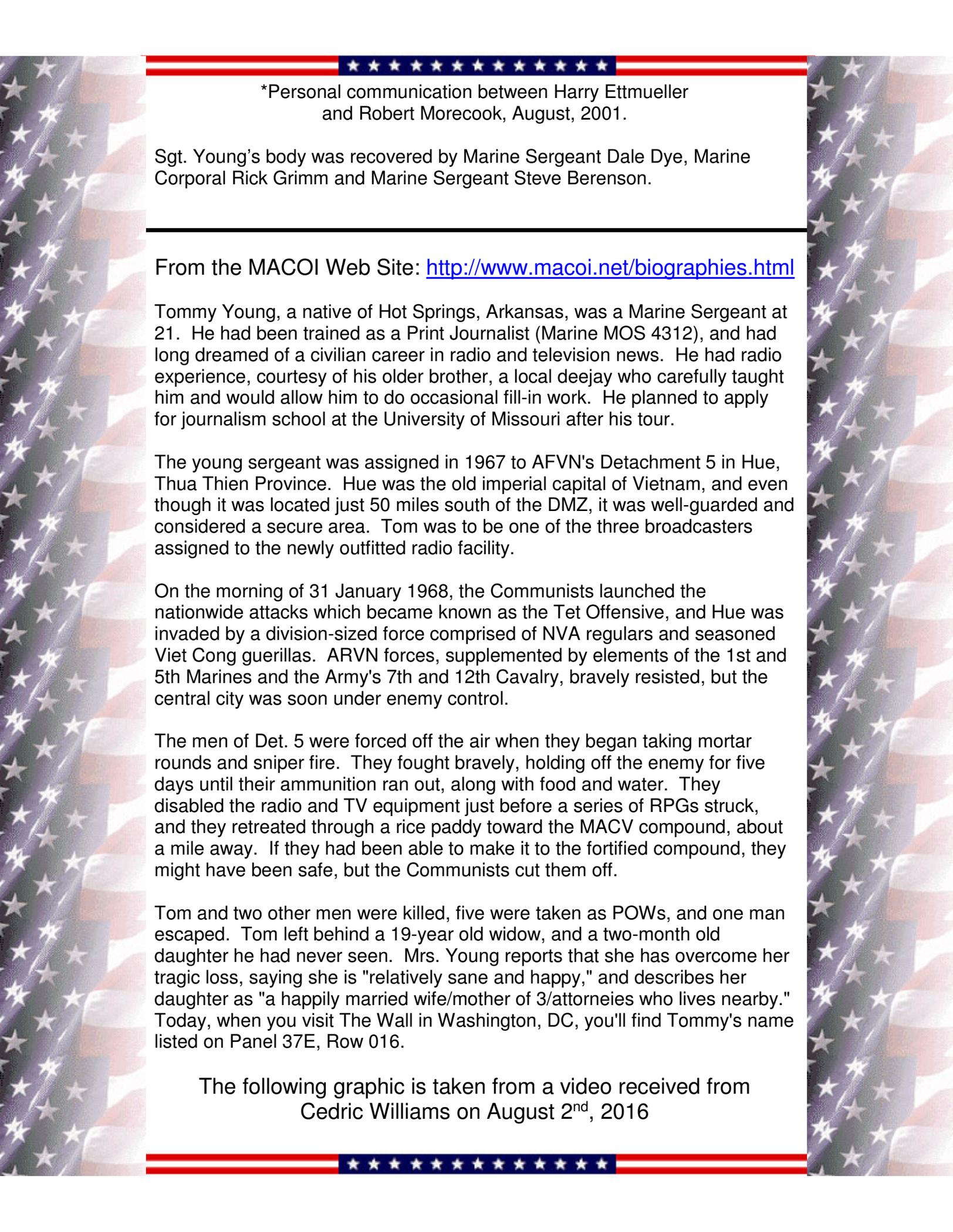
Country: South Vietnam

Province: Thua Thien

The Wall: Panel 37E – Row 016

From the old Geocities Web Site

His friend SFC Harry Ettmueller writes, "I was right next to Tom when he was KIA in Hue and it was 5 Feb 68 not the 3rd as believed. Tom was killed by a burst of automatic weapons fire while trying to evade with the detachment from being overrun. We were in the streets of Hue fighting off a very large NVA force while heading towards MACV HQ and possible safety but alas we never made it. Three were killed that day to include one civilian a Courtney Niles, but the worst part was having Army SP. Steve Stroub executed shortly after capture.... Our detachment sustained 100% casualties, 3 KIA, 5 CIA, [Captured in Action] and 1 managed to evade. All of us sustained multiple wounds either gunshot, grenade, and or RPG's."



*Personal communication between Harry Ettmueller
and Robert Morecook, August, 2001.

Sgt. Young's body was recovered by Marine Sergeant Dale Dye, Marine Corporal Rick Grimm and Marine Sergeant Steve Berenson.

From the MACOI Web Site: <http://www.macoi.net/biographies.html>

Tommy Young, a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was a Marine Sergeant at 21. He had been trained as a Print Journalist (Marine MOS 4312), and had long dreamed of a civilian career in radio and television news. He had radio experience, courtesy of his older brother, a local deejay who carefully taught him and would allow him to do occasional fill-in work. He planned to apply for journalism school at the University of Missouri after his tour.

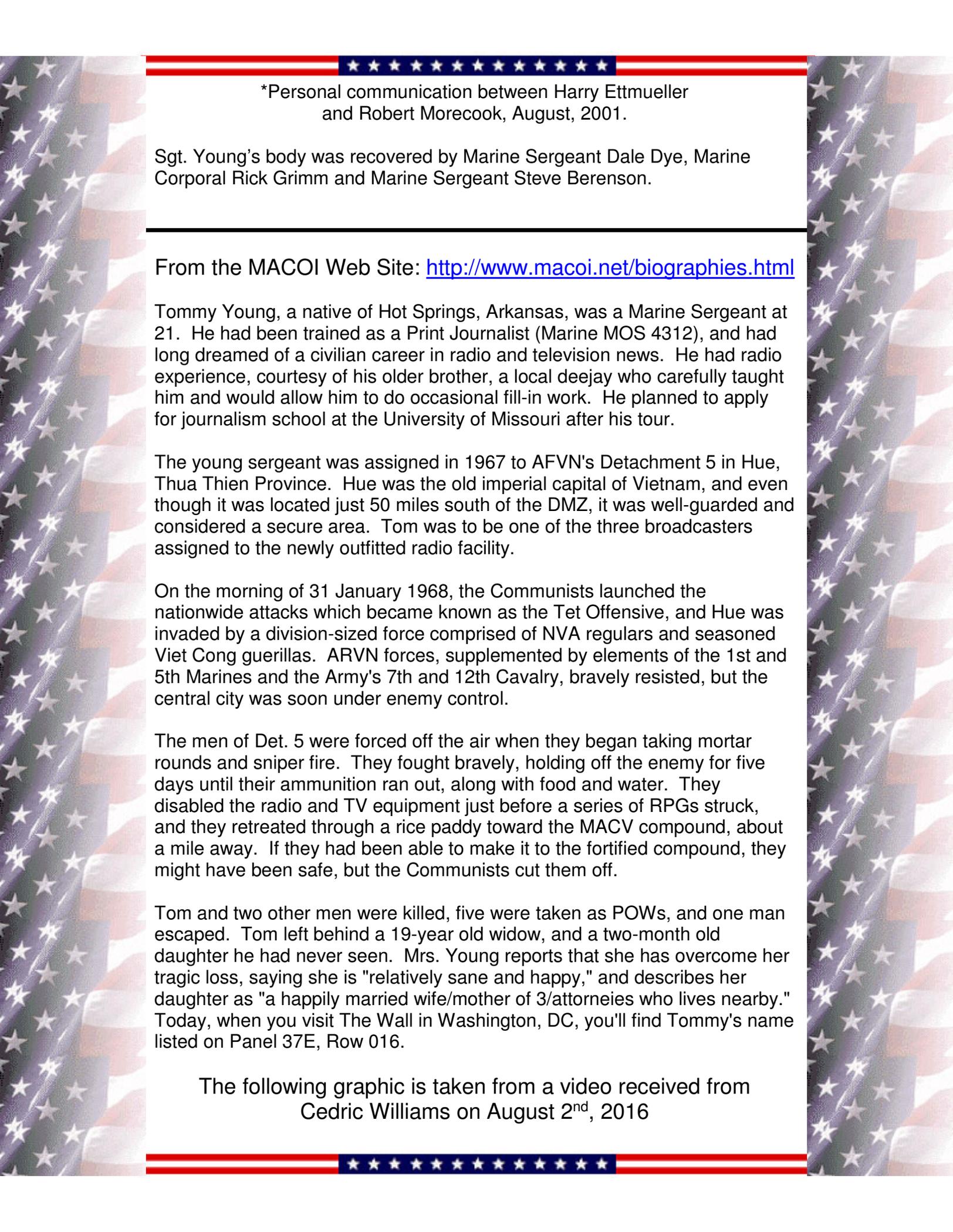
The young sergeant was assigned in 1967 to AFVN's Detachment 5 in Hue, Thua Thien Province. Hue was the old imperial capital of Vietnam, and even though it was located just 50 miles south of the DMZ, it was well-guarded and considered a secure area. Tom was to be one of the three broadcasters assigned to the newly outfitted radio facility.

On the morning of 31 January 1968, the Communists launched the nationwide attacks which became known as the Tet Offensive, and Hue was invaded by a division-sized force comprised of NVA regulars and seasoned Viet Cong guerillas. ARVN forces, supplemented by elements of the 1st and 5th Marines and the Army's 7th and 12th Cavalry, bravely resisted, but the central city was soon under enemy control.

The men of Det. 5 were forced off the air when they began taking mortar rounds and sniper fire. They fought bravely, holding off the enemy for five days until their ammunition ran out, along with food and water. They disabled the radio and TV equipment just before a series of RPGs struck, and they retreated through a rice paddy toward the MACV compound, about a mile away. If they had been able to make it to the fortified compound, they might have been safe, but the Communists cut them off.

Tom and two other men were killed, five were taken as POWs, and one man escaped. Tom left behind a 19-year old widow, and a two-month old daughter he had never seen. Mrs. Young reports that she has overcome her tragic loss, saying she is "relatively sane and happy," and describes her daughter as "a happily married wife/mother of 3/attorneies who lives nearby." Today, when you visit The Wall in Washington, DC, you'll find Tommy's name listed on Panel 37E, Row 016.

The following graphic is taken from a video received from
Cedric Williams on August 2nd, 2016





Message from Jean R. Miller—Sgt Young's widow and mother of his only child, a daughter. Dated July 28, 2014

I do not mind at all that you have contacted me....in fact I have wondered how I could add information about Thomas ("Tommy" to his friends & family) to your information site. I have kept photos, letters, medals & his obituary. I also keep flowers on his grave. He was extremely smart, handsome, brave & loving...I think he would have grown into an even more outstanding person if he had lived. Tommy's daughter is proud of her father and named her second son for his grandfather. Our daughter and I attended the April 2008 Public Affairs Hall of Fame Induction for the Detachment 5 members in Washington. I will revisit your web site to best understand what would be most appropriate to send you. Thank you for your efforts to tell about the lives of your friends.

Jean Miller