

**MEMORIAL DAY 2016**  
**REMEMBERING A SOLDIER WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN VIETNAM**  
**THIS STORY TOOK PLACE JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1970, IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM**  
*By Guy Rudawski, Company Medic for Alpha Company 2-501<sup>st</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, 1970*



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL      PANEL W9 LINE 58

**MARCUS "WAYNE" MADDOX**

*07/24/1950 - 06/16/1970*

*Converse, Texas    Age: 19    Married*

Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV

Hostile Action June 1<sup>st</sup> 1970, Thua Thien Province.

Died of his wounds on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1970.

Alpha Company was headed north on a search and destroy mission in the Ta Trach River Valley. We were following a trail through rugged jungle covered mountains, hunting for the tough and elusive NVA. The trail led to a clearing, a Landing Zone (LZ), which US troops used for resupply. Recently, Alpha lost 11 soldiers KIA, two MIA and took heavy casualties during brutal NVA assaults on Firebase Granite, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Firebase Henderson on May 6<sup>th</sup>; haunting memories for many Alpha brothers.

Crossing the LZ was dangerous as it was a likely place for an ambush. The point team carefully worked their way across and secured the north side. I was 30 meters behind on the south side when the violent explosion jarred everyone. Piercing screams came from the north side of the LZ: "Medic! Medic! Medic!" As the grunts set up a defensive perimeter, I raced across the LZ to the location where Medic Bill Stafford was already treating the wounded soldier. I saw blood everywhere and the look on Bill's face told me how gruesome the situation was.

PFC Marcus "Wayne" Maddox stepped on a booby trap; a large mortar round was buried and rigged with a pressure device by the NVA. Wayne was lying in the hole created by the explosion. His legs were shredded, bloody stumps. Shrapnel, dirt and clothing were imbedded in the wounds. Parts of his blown-off legs were scattered nearby. I was horrified at the devastation and my stomach tightened as I started applying a tourniquet to the soldier's right thigh. Doc Stafford was bandaging the severely shattered left leg. Two soldiers at Wayne's side were comforting him, helping him be brave and trying to keep him from going into shock. Facing Wayne, I watched his eyes frantically dart back and forth from Stafford to me. He was shaking and crying and pleading: "Don't let me die! Don't let me die Doc!" The tourniquets were secured and an IV was in place when the Medivac arrived. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> I wrote in a letter home, "... it's too horrible to talk about. I hope he makes it".

**Epilogue:** 19 year old Marcus "Wayne" Maddox died of his wounds on June 16, 1970. He was a brave soldier who fought courageously to survive. He believed in God and service to his Country. He enlisted in the Army at a time when US public support for the War was less than 30%. Wayne served 56 days in Vietnam. His sacrifice deserves our gratitude and a place in our memory. Rest in Peace Wayne.

**RAISING AWARENESS OF THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE**

**58,307 AMERICANS DIED IN VIETNAM AND 1,627 REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR.**

**AMONG THOSE WHO DIED: 151 MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS; 8 WOMEN (ALL NURSES) AND 16 CLERGY**

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