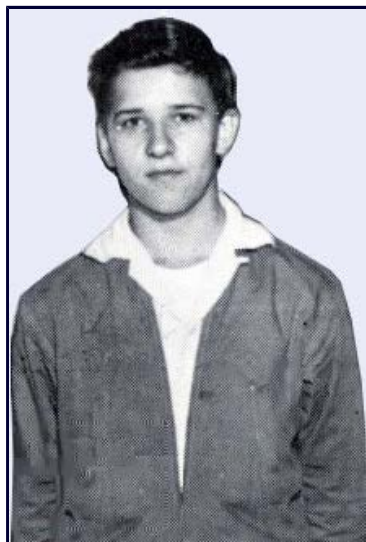


## A1C GARY PAUL GAY

12th APS, Cam Ranh Bay AB  
Casualty was on Jan 27, 1966  
Panel 04E - Line 99

*Gary, We Remembered Your Name*

by Don Poss.



I have often wondered about the few who served in-country only a few days, and lost their lives. We know today that one hundred eleven men who served in our squadrons were *killed in action or line or duty*. And duty was hard from *day-one*. If you were lucky, a quick swim with new friends at **China Beach**, Đà Nẵng, or golden Cam Ranh Bay AB, was priceless. The allure of exotic beaches, the treachery of swift streams, and a chance for a quick swim, would claim the lives of **nine** air/security police during the war years. A1C Gary Paul Gay was one of them. During his five days at his new base, he made at least one friend, **A1C Robert L. Fields III**. Perhaps they arrived at Cam Ranh Bay AB Air Base at the same time. Both decided to go for a swim at **Cam Ranh Bay AB beach**, and there both drowned. Five days at Cam Ranh Bay AB, and then, dead, and returned home to their families.

The Vietnam Security Police Association has a proud record of Taking Care of Its Own. In fact, that is our motto. A motto that reflects today what we practiced decades ago in Vietnam and Thailand. If you were a friend or family member, VSPA invites you to email a remembrance of either Gary Paul Gay, or Robert L. Fields, so that others may know of them. We know very little about them, because they were not with our squadrons long enough to be known. In some such cases, we know--*nothing at all*.

VSPA has honored the memories of our fallen brothers. Many stories posted attest their bravery and valor. Some of the stories cause laughter, and others, tears.

While researching online, I happened across a school photo album that mentioned *Gary Paul Gay* was killed in Vietnam while serving as an Air Policeman with the USAF. I emailed the webmaster's help, and Pat Riley replied that he would search for the photo and burial site. He located Gary Gay's obituary, and enlisted the help of Jennifer Pruchnic, reference librarian, Cambria Co. Library. Today, I received three class photos of Gary P. Guy.

**Thank you Pat Riley, and Jennifer Pruchnic!**

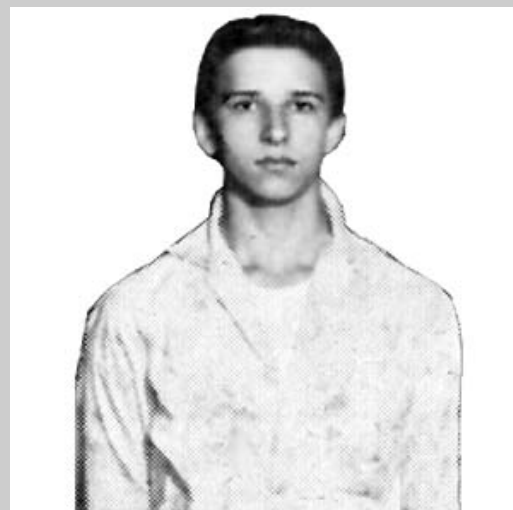
Above Photo: 1957 Elevator, Greater Conemaugh Joint High School, Conemaugh, PA



*We Return as Seniors of Tomorrow*

Row I (Left to Right): Kay Montgomery, Elizabeth Mickens, Mariann Sokach, Joseph Sisitki, Marie Rozum, George Matson, Patty Pencola, Paulette Krisko, Patricia Zapotecane. Row II: Bernice Komisar, John Marhefka, Mallie McDaniels, Leonard Mesaros, Ronald Woolfe, Leonard Martin, Martha Wagner, Yvette Yasika, Roberta Rhoads, Patricia Penko. Row III: James Winski, Michael Pilot, Stanley Suboleski, Lewis Ponchek, Fred Petrovic, Walter Lindenberg, Thomas Piker, Jacob Salem, John Wuckovich.

Row I (Left to Right): Judy Hildebrand, Patricia Kautz, Gladys Hill, Donald Freidhoff, Joann Hildebrand, Louise Bukovec, Joyce Holt, Peggy Donnelly, Margaret Briggs. Row II: Leona Gaborek, Jean Gray, Terry Kenjesky, George Fesko, Gary Gay, Harold Kaseler, Reginald Goughmour, Jack Bilak, Ruth Fetterman, Georgia Hill. Row III: Donald Blair, Robert Kalinyak, Raymond Guyan, Jim Jones, Pat Dolan, Gene Bilak, Donald Briggs, Rodger Howells, Philip Hagerich.



12th APS, Cam Ranh Bay AB

Above Photos: 1958 Elevator, Greater Conemaugh Joint High School, Conemaugh, PA

-----Original Message-----

From: Rmadanthony@aol.com [mailto:Rmadanthony@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2005 2:46 PM

To: Don Poss

Subject: Gary P. Gay

Don,

He was in country five days before he died. I'll make it my job to get all locations of PA burials. Found his obit.

Pat Riley

Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

February 4, 1966

**GAY- Airmen 1C Gary P., died January 28, 1966, in Vietnam. Born November 21, 1941, in Johnstown, son of Paul and Twila (Scaife) Gay. Preceded in death by father, Paul in 1946. Survived by mother, Mrs. Twila Kimmel, Conemaugh, and widow, former Pearl Young, Conemaugh: Brother of Frank Gay, Vinco, and George, Alvin and Daniel Kimmel, all at home. Friends received at Carl E. Davis Funeral Home, Conemaugh, where service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, the Rev. Walden M. Holl, D.D. Complete military graveside rites. Internment, Richland Cemetery.**

**Richland Cemetery, 1257 Scalp Avenue, Johnstown 15904  
Richland Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania**

-----Original Message-----

From: reference e-mail [mailto:reference@cclib.lib.pa.us]  
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 11:58 AM  
To: Don Poss  
Subject: gary gay photos

Mr. Poss,

We are sending you three scanned photos, per Mr. Patrick Riley's request. The first two are edited group pictures; we did not have the senior yearbook.

- 1.Gary Gay 1--from the 1958 Elevator, Greater Conemaugh Joint High School, Conemaugh, PA
- 2.Gary Gay 2--from the 1957 Elevator, Greater Conemaugh Joint High School, Conemaugh, PA
- 3.yrbook--the full page from the 1958 Elevator with his group picture

If these are not sufficient, or there is a technical problem, please write back.

--Jennifer Pruchnic, reference librarian, Cambria Co. Library

## **GAY, GARY PAUL**

A1C - Air Force - Regular  
24 year old Married, Caucasian, Male  
Born on Nov 21, 1941  
From CONEMAUGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
**12th APS, Cam Ranh Bay AB**  
Length of service 6 years.  
His tour of duty began on Jan 22, 1966  
Casualty was on Jan 27, 1966  
in Khánh Hòa, SOUTH VIETNAM  
Non Hostile, GROUND CASUALTY  
DROWNED, SUFFOCATED  
Body was recovered  
Panel 04E - Line 99

## **FIELDS, ROBERT LOUIS III**

A2C - Air Force - Regular  
21 year old Single, Caucasian, Male  
Born on Feb 01, 1944  
From GALESBURG, ILLINOIS  
**12th APS, Cam Ranh Bay AB**  
Length of service 2 years.  
Casualty was on Jan 27, 1966  
in Khánh Hòa, SOUTH VIETNAM  
Non Hostile, died missing  
GROUND CASUALTY  
DROWNED, SUFFOCATED  
Body was recovered  
Panel 04E - Line 99

*We Take Care of Our Own*

[Click to Report BROKEN LINKS or Photos, or Comment](#)