

WILLIAM BENEDICT NOLDE**CLASS 18-52**

is honored on Panel 1W, Row 112 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Full Name: WILLIAM BENEDICT NOLDE
Wall Name: WILLIAM B NOLDE
Date of Birth: 8/8/1929
Date of Casualty: 1/27/1973
Home of Record: MENOMINEE
State: MI
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: COL
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: BINH LONG



Colonel Nolde enlisted in the Army in 1951 and served during the Korean War. He then attended OCS at Fort Sill. Among his many assignments, he was Assistant Professor of Military Science at Central Michigan University from 1962-1964 before his first tour of duty in Vietnam. He then returned to CMU as APMS for a second time, leaving that position in the fall of 1966. Colonel Nolde also served in Korea, Germany and the Far East. Prior to a third tour in Vietnam he had been stationed in Italy.

He was the senior military advisor in An Loc in Binh Long Province when he was killed by a direct hit on his bunker during an enemy artillery barrage. His death came just eleven hours before the cease-fire went into effect in Vietnam on 27 January 1973, making him the last American Soldier to die in combat before the cease-fire. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. At 43 years of age, he was the oldest graduate of Field Artillery OCS to die in the Vietnam War.

Colonel Nolde was inducted into the Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame on 16 June 2006

My first Battalion Commander

LTC Nolde was my first Bn Cmdr when I was assigned to B Btry, 5/30th in Vicenza, Italy, 1970-71. I remember him as an enthusiastic, energetic commander who treated young officers like they were his son...with a great deal of patience and understanding. It was a real honor and treat to have served under his tutelage. I still remember him and his great smile.

Posted by: Michael Fitzgibbons
Relationship: Then 2LT, B/5/30th Arty
March 12, 2007

Colonel Nolde

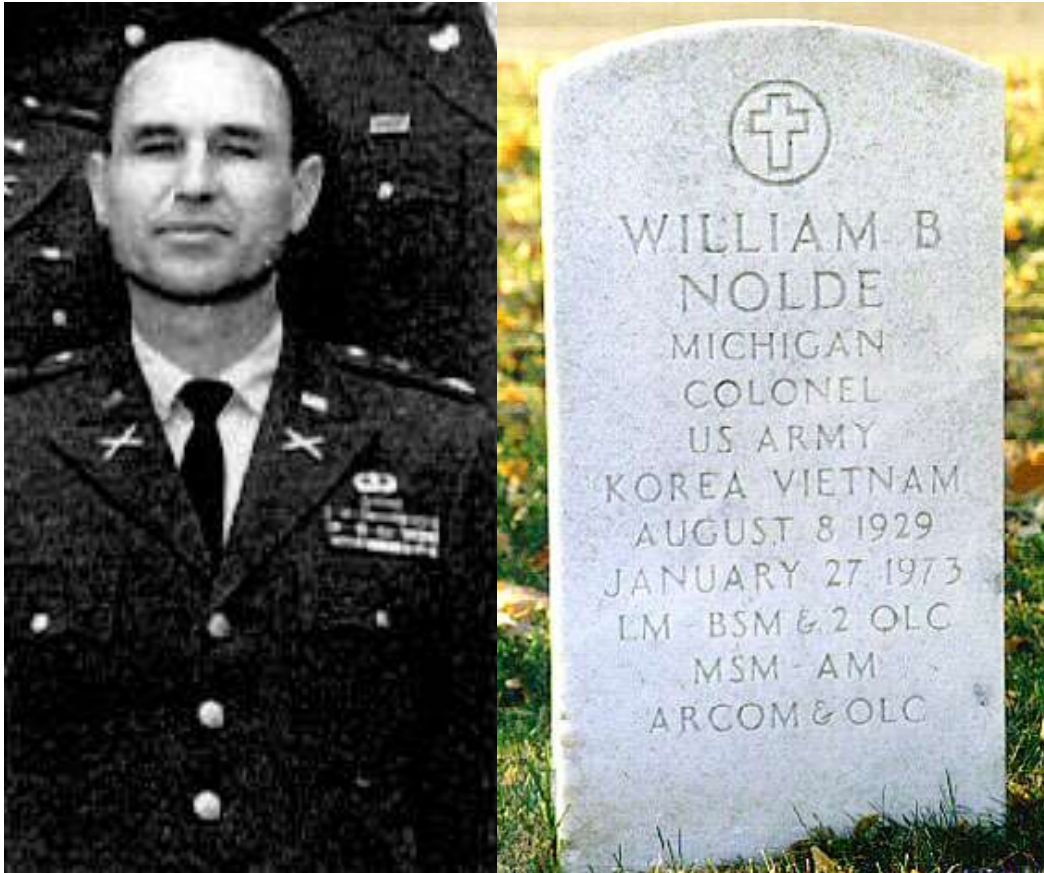


**Col. William B. Nolde
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
The last American Killed
in Action before the cease
fire in Vietnam. 1973.**

I had the honor of serving Colonel Nolde for a very short period of time, my third and last commanding officer during my tour with MACV Advisory Team 47. Colonel Nolde, taking command from Colonel Robert Corley following the battle for An Loc in 1972, had too much to do and places to go at the time to take much note of his lowest team member, but was well respected by all who knew and served with him regardless of level or interaction. It is fitting and proper that he, among so many other fine service members who fought and died in Binh Long Province, hold special place in the history of Vietnam and America's honorable service, such as USAF Lt. Michael Blassie who died flying missions for the South Vietnamese Army, and the advisory team that bore Colonel Nolde to history's place in Arlington Cemetery. It was a true honor serving with him.

Ronald Moak
Adv Tm Administrative Specialist
14407 Golden Oak Court Centreville Virginia 20121-2250
Sep 27, 2006

In Honored Remembrance



The United States Army buried its last official casualty of the Vietnam War at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He was 43 years old when he was killed-in-action on January 27, 1973, near An Loc when an artillery shell exploded just eleven hours before the truce began.

He was an advisor to the South Vietnam Army and while he was not the last American to die in Vietnam, his death was the last recorded before the cease fire, and thus earned the dubious honor of being the last of 45,941 Americans killed during the conflict.

As such, his funeral drew not only full military honors but considerably more brass than the funeral of a field-grade officer would normally command. Among 150 or so mourners were General Alexander Haig, the Army Vice Chief of Staff, and Lieutenant General Robert E. Coffin, who had been his Commanding Officer when he served in Italy before his Vietnam tour.

Buried on February 5, 1973 in Section 3, Lot#1775-B, Map Grid R-16

Posted by: Michael Robert Patterson
March 22, 2002

Hard Chargers of the 30th FA Regiment

COL Nolde commanded the 5th Bn, 30th FA in Italy (1969-1971) and is a well remembered member of the "Hard Chargers" of the 30th Field Artillery Regiment. The "SPERRY" Missile Trophy was retired in his name in 1974, and is prominently displayed in the 30th FA Regimental Room, in Snow Hall, at Fort Sill, OK. His service with the 5th Bn, 30th FA has been recorded in "The History of the 30th FA Regiment 1918-1998".

Posted by: MSG (R) Dan Gillotti
Relationship: Served in the same Regiment
August 27, 1999

One Moment In Time

When LTC Nolde came to Vietnam in 1972, I was the pilot on UH-1H that took him to An Loc. I only met him that once, and that was the only time I had met someone in the Army with the same last name as mine.

Posted by: Norm Nolde
May 31, 1999

I Didn't Know Then

William Nolde was my ROTC instructor at Central Michigan University in '62-'63. At that time he was a Captain. Though he attempted to hold us to military decorum, he did so with respect and intelligence.

I am sure our views of the military and the country's position and involvement in Vietnam were different, especially in the later 60's but learning of his death years later was especially poignant for me because he was only one of two persons I directly knew who gave his life for all of us during that turbulent time.

Posted by: Joel O. Hott
Relationship: former student
December 11, 1998

At Central Michigan University (where Colonel Nolde was once a military science professor) the William B. Nolde Scholarship was established in memory of the Colonel by students, family and friends. The William B. Nolde Lecture Series takes place every two years and invites various politicians, professors and military leaders to lecture on the importance of leadership.