

Landon Field Memorial to Gregory Landon

On May 26, 1967, Greg was 20 years old, when he was fatally wounded in a firefight while serving his country as a U.S. Marine in South Vietnam. In 1969, a green scoreboard was erected on the ball diamond at Spring Lake Park as a memorial to Greg. Sometime in the 1980's the score board was taken down and memories of the scoreboard and the memorial faded.

In the early 2000's Lee Campbell, a member of the Village of Lincolnshire Park Board, remembered the scoreboard and the memorial to Greg and worked diligently to find out more about Greg and to get the memorial replaced. With the help of an online website of the Vietnam War Memorial and a reference librarian at the Vernon Area Library he was able to contact Mr. Sharon Burke Landon, Greg's step mother and his sister Kathleen who helped piece together the pieces of the memorial. Due to the dedication of Mr. Campbell the memorial scoreboard was replaced with a beautiful plaque and garden, just north of the ballfield at Spring Lake Park.

Following are some pieces of information provided by Greg's sister Kathleen for the Memorial Day service at Spring Lake Park in 2010:

Greg attended school from kindergarten through 8th grade at Queen of Angels at Montrose and Western Avenues in Chicago. He then attended St. George High School in Evanston. His family moved to 26 Lancaster Lane in Lincolnshire in 1962. Greg then attended Ela Vernon High School in Lake Zurich in 1964. Greg was an avid sports enthusiast. He was a biker and biked from Racine to Lincolnshire. He was a speed skater and was in tournaments in the North Shore. Greg's main love was baseball.

In a letter from Lieutenant Colonel C. B. Webster, U.S. Marine Corps to Greg's parents it reads:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Landon:

The recent death of your son, Private First Class William Gregory Landon, U.S. Marine Corps on 26 May 1967 has brought great sadness to me and to his friends in this Battalion. Please accept our deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

William was a mortar man in H&S Company, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division. On 26 May 1967 he was with his company on Operation Union II of the Quang Tin Province, Republic of South Vietnam. In the afternoon his company encountered heavy contact from a North Vietnamese Army unit and William was struck in the head and mortally wounded by enemy small arms fire. It may be of some comfort to know that William died almost instantly and he suffered little pain or discomfort.

William had gained the respect and admiration of all who knew him by his cheerful disposition and dedication to duty. He had many friends among his fellow Marines. Even though I realize that words can give you little consolation at a time like this, I hope your sorrow may in some measure be alleviated by the knowledge that your son is sorely missed by the Marines of this Battalion and we share your great loss with you.

A memorial service will be held for William in the Battalion Chapel when the present operations are terminated.

Please do not hesitate to write if you feel that I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

*C.B. Webster
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding*

A number of donations were received by Greg's family in his honor. Greg's father, William R. Landon, coordinated the donations for a scoreboard to be erected at the Spring Lake Park baseball field. The scoreboard was dedicated in Greg's honor during the annual Fourth of July celebration in approximately 1969.

