

## STATE OF TENNESSEE HONORS FALLEN 5/7TH CAV. TROOPER

In the fall of 1965, a young 19-year-old; Arthur Garfield, "A.G." Hensley, from the small farm community of Limestone, Tennessee was "drafted" into the military. A.G. was sent to Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he spent the next nine months training with approximately 800 other men, most of who, had also been drafted.

In April 1966, the unit in which A.G. had been training received special "orders", designating it as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company A, 5th Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, which later would be assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

A.G.'s time spent in training and deployment was with most of the same men which allowed him to establish some very close friendships that would remain with him during his time in Vietnam.

In August 1966, A.G. deployed to Vietnam along with the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. While in country, A.G. served as most other Infantry/Sky Troopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division. However, on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1967, while on a "search and destroy mission" with the Second Platoon; A.G. was killed in action during a sniper ambush. The action is chronicled in the book written by author Joshua Bowe about the 1966-67, A- Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn./7<sup>th</sup> Cav. A.G.'s remains were returned to Limestone, Tenn. where they lay at rest today.

In the spring and early summer of 2023, A.G.'s family and local community officials, led by A.G.'s older brother Dallas Hensley, began an effort to have A.G. and a childhood classmate and teammate, Daryl Culver, recognized for their sacrifices in Vietnam. Both friends had been lost within several months of one another. With a continuing persuasion placed on the state legislatures, a "resolution" was passed which proclaimed the naming of a local bridge in the Limestone area after A.G. and his friend Daryl. The bridge is located at the intersection of Tn. Hwy.11-E and Clear Springs Rd at the Washington and Greene County line.

The bridge is a four (4) lane divided structure with two (2) lanes in each direction. The two south bound lanes are designated on behalf of A.G. Hensley, while the two north bound lanes are named in honor of Daryl Culver.

On the weekend of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the unveiling of the bridge naming took place. Dallas Hensley and the other siblings of A.G. hosted a ceremony in recognition of the "Bridge Dedication". Other family, community, church, school members, former ball teammates and "2nd Platoon Members" attended the function as a special tribute to the occasion.

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon attendees: Jim Hardenburgh, John Kruetzkanp, Bill Purdy, and Dale "Marty" Scull (A.G.'s best friend during his time in the Army), were designated as Guests of Honor. The Honoree's wives accompanied their Veteran husbands from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Oregon to the event. The attendance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Members being present, was a result of the "Book" written by Joshua Bowe. A member of the Hensley Family had read the publication and pursued contacts through the names listed in the book.

The ceremony concluded with a Local Community TV station taking video/photos and interviews with guest veterans at the bridge site. Prior to the bridge dedication activities, Veterans Scull, Kruetzkanp, Hardenburgh and Purdy, with their spouses, visited the grave site of fallen Brother A.G.

Below are photos from the ceremony. Left photo: 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Members, Marty (Dale) Scull, Jim Hardenburgh, John Kruetzkamp & Bill Purdy. Middle Photo: A.G. Hensley (somewhere Vietnam). Right Photo; Bridge Sign honoring A.G.

