

My testimony for Capt. Louis John Speidel is the simple truth.

Growing up across St. Rt.28 from where John grew up, I knew him well. There were several of us within a couple of years of each other. Many of us are Veterans, also Veterans of the Viet Nam Conflict. John was the best of all of us. No doubt that John would be successful in any path he would choose. I spent a number of my days riding the same school bus, shooting basketball at a neighborhood court and roaming the woods behind our houses.

After John left for West Point, I only saw him one more time when he was home for Thanksgiving holiday. He walked over to see me. I remember him wearing his gray uniform. We talked for awhile about West Point and then we separated.

John was a wonderful person. He always took time with everyone he met. He helped those in need of tutoring, especially in math.

John, being a Huey pilot, is a testament in itself. Flying soldiers in and out of hot landing zones and flying Medivac missions was John's MOS (job) John knew this MOS did not come with a very long life expectancy.

After 4 months John was shot down on April 23, 1971, his birthday. John was in a hospital in Japan, lost a leg and part of his stomach and most likely would lose his other leg. As he was being prepped to fly to San Francisco, he died of a heart attack as a result of his wounds.

To give an example of John's character he did not want his pregnant wife Ellen to know of his medical status. Ellen was about to give birth and he did not want to jeopardize their health.

Thank you for considering John for this honor.

For God and County,

Walter (Larry) Luecke