

Mr Chairman and Committee Members.

I have been asked to share a few thoughts about my brother, Richard Orsund. Growing up, he was probably my best friend. We were 2 years apart in age. Thinking back I guess he would have been considered the "all American boy". He was liked and respected by both his peers and also the adults in his life. In high school he was elected as Student Body President. He was involved in sports playing football and running in track. I can remember him coming in from a run around the section when I was just getting up in the morning. This is how he fit in the track practice as he also held an after school job at the local drug store. While in high school he also mowed our church/cemetery lawn. Then on Sunday morning you would find him in church and Sunday School. Often after the death of our grandfather he would pick up our grandmother in Nash and make sure she got to her church service. He never complained about having his younger sister tagging along and I knew I had a ride to any school events!

Family was important to Richard. I remember the letter he wrote to our parents for their 25th wedding anniversary...thankful for their guidance and love while we were growing up. This anniversary happened just a couple months after Richard was deployed to Viet Nam. I never in my wildest dreams thought he would not be returning to us and continuing on with his plans for the future. But that was not to be. I will never forget the day my parents came to the college I was attending to give me the news of his death. I knew immediately when I saw my parents along with the director of nurses what had happened. In some ways it still feels like a dream. He went away a young man, full of dreams. And that is the way he remains in my mind. I often wonder what he would have accomplished in his life. He had already packed so much into his 20 years of living. I know it would have been great! I also regret that my children never got to meet this special man who was their uncle Richard! From what our family has been told he was also well respected by his fellow soldiers and served his country bravely.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a little bit about my brother.

Please consider as a do pass on this bill.

Shirley Van Camp

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