

Andrew Charles Rackow

**Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class
H&S CO, 2ND BN, 5TH MARINES, 1ST
MARDIV
United States Navy**

**26 October 1947 - 06 August 1968
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania
Panel 49W Line 020**



Andrew Charles Rackow

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class

PERSONAL DATA

Home of Record: Cheltenham, Pennsylvania
Date of birth: Sunday, 10/26/1947

MILITARY DATA

Service: Navy (Regular)
Grade at loss: E5
Rank: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class
ID No: B407475
MOS: HM Hospital Corpsman
LenSvc: Between 2 and 3 years
Unit: H&S CO, 2ND BN, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARDIV

CASUALTY DATA

Start Tour: Thursday, 03/14/1968
Cas Date: Tuesday, 08/06/1968
Age at Loss: 20
Remains: Body recovered
Location: Quang Nam, South Vietnam
Type: Hostile, died outright
Reason: Gun or small arms fire - Ground casualty

ON THE WALL Panel 49W Line 020



www.VirtualWall.org

02 Apr 2008

Andrew Rackow - Andy - was our brother.

He wanted to be a Navy doctor but was sidetracked by the conflict in Southeast Asia. The terrible effects of the war bothered him and so, in 1966, he interrupted his studies at Penn State University and enlisted as a hospital corpsman. He soon attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class. His unit was assigned to duty in Vietnam attached to the Marines. For many months Andy's outfit was in the thick of some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

In August, 1968, he fell in the line of duty.

Shortly after Andy's death, our parents received a letter from one of his buddies. Excerpts from that truly remarkable, comforting note bear witness to Andy's courage and the kind of person he was.

"I was with Andy the day he was hit. Your son was a brave man. He died because he valued the lives of the men and was willing to take any risk to help them. At the time he was hit, he was at the very front of the battle, helping a man who was badly wounded.

"More than one man is alive now because of Andy's courage, and I wanted you to know how badly we all feel and what a great man your son really was."

Andy's bravery in action was recognized, as well, by his superior officers. He was awarded the Silver Star, one of the highest medals awarded by the Navy.

Andy was our brother but, in a sense, he and all the other brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country belong to all America. We would give anything to be able to tell him how proud we are of him. We may not all agree with everything our country is, but it is this country that gives us the very freedom we have to disagree - and the opportunity to make things better. And it has always been men and women like Andy who have preserved the gift of those freedoms.

We are forever proud of and in debt to Andy. We miss him.

**From his brothers,
Julian P. Rackow
David M. Rackow**

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A Note from The Virtual Wall

On 06 Aug 1968 Fox and Golf Companies, 2/5 Marines, engaged an NVA company about two kilometers southeast of the Liberty Bridge. When the enemy withdrew they left 23 bodies on the battlefield - but two Marines and one sailor died as well:

- **GySgt Lawrence G. Bargaheiser, Tiffin, OH, Golf 2/5;**
- **HM2 Andrew C. Rackow, Cheltenham, PA, H&S 2/5 (Silver Star); and**
- **Cpl Robert G. Fante, Roseville, MI, Fox 2/5 (Navy Cross).**



**"You guys are the Marine's doctors -
There's none better in the business
than a Navy Corpsman ..."**

-- Lieutenant General "Chesty" Puller --

**Visit John Dennison's
[Medics on the Wall](#)
memorial which honors the
Army Medics and Navy Corpsmen who died in Vietnam.**

**The point-of-contact for this memorial is
his brother, David M. Rackow
rackowassociates@comcast.net**

From David Hackett ...

Photo of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

