

James Elson Buchanan

He was a **Vietnam War Era** casualty on November 3, 1969. ★ He served with honor in the **United States Army**. ★ He is remembered by the people of **Mississippi** ★ May his positive example inspire us, as global citizens. ★ When we work together, we can help one another.

America's Fallen



Vietnam War



US Army



Mississippi



State Flower



James Elson Buchanan



[UPLOAD IMAGE](#)

▼ STATE OVERVIEW

Mississippi

James Elson Buchanan is among the 3,910 American Gold Star casualties recorded in our archive with close ties to Mississippi. This is a substantial number of individuals who gave their lives in service to their country.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW

Name	James Elson Buchanan
From	Jones County, Mississippi
Born	July 8, 1946
Death	November 3, 1969
War	Vietnam War
Rank	Staff Sergeant
Specialty	Armor Intelligence Specialist

Branch US Army
Group 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Squadron, 11th Cavalry, E Troop
Cause Died through non-hostile action, air crash on land
Location South Vietnam, Binh Long province
Awarded ★ Silver Star
★ Bronze Star

ORIGINS



James Elson Buchanan was born on July 8, 1946. According to our records [Mississippi](#) was his home or enlistment state and [Jones County](#) included within the archival record. We have [Laurel](#) listed as the city.

SERVICE



He had enlisted in the United States Army. Entered the service via Regular Military. Served during the Vietnam War. He began his tour on September 4, 1969. Buchanan had the rank of Staff Sergeant. His military occupation or specialty was Armor Intelligence Specialist. Service number assignment was 427983636. Attached to 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Squadron, 11th Cavalry, E Troop.

CASUALTY



During his service in the Vietnam War, Army Staff Sergeant Buchanan experienced a traumatic event which ultimately resulted in loss of life on [November 3, 1969](#). Recorded circumstances attributed to: **Died through non-**

hostile action, air crash on land. Incident location: South Vietnam, Binh Long province.

DETAILS



Silver Star Citation:

"The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Specialist Fourth Class James Elson Buchanan (ASN: RA-14850547), United States Army, for gallantry in action involving conflict with an armed hostile force on 12 September 1968 while serving as a vehicle commander with Troop E, 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Specialist Buchanan's troop was given the mission of relieving Company A of the 1st Infantry Division which was held up by an estimated North Vietnamese Battalion. During the move over 2,000 meters of enemy-infested terrain, Specialist Buchanan's vehicle was under constant hostile automatic weapons and anti-tank fire. Foiling every attempt the enemy made to halt him, Specialist Buchanan, although receiving multiple fragmentation wounds from an exploding anti-tank rocket, continued to press forward until he was wounded by small arms fire. Showing no regard for his own personal safety, Specialist Buchanan then exchanged positions with one of his scout observers and as a medic attended his wounds, he continued to direct highly-accurate suppressive fire into the hostile positions. Although suffering from numerous painful wounds, Specialist Buchanan contributed to the successful accomplishment of his unit's mission, enabling other elements of his unit to relieve the beleaguered infantry company, thus saving many American lives. Specialist Fourth Class Buchanan's unwavering devotion to duty, personal courage and disregard of personal safety while under intense hostile fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army."

General Orders: Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam, General Orders No. 1635 (November 7, 1968)

Action Date: September 12, 1968

REMEMBERED

James Elson Buchanan is buried or memorialized at Clark Cemetery, Jones County, Mississippi.



James is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 16w, Line 22.

COMMENDATIONS

- ★ Silver Star
- ★ Bronze Star
- ★ Combat Infantryman Badge
- ★ National Defense Service Medal
- ★ Vietnam Campaign Medal
- ★ Vietnam Service Medal
- ★ Army Presidential Unit Citation
- ★ Vietnam Gallantry Cross
- ★ Army Good Conduct Medal



PLEASE NOTE THIS MIGHT NOT BE A COMPLETE OR COMPLETELY ACCURATE ACCOUNTING. FOR SOME AWARDS WE USE PROBABILITIES BASED ON KNOWN SERVICE DETAILS.